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CONTENTS

MIDDLE EAST & SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

25 February Middle East and South Asia Review 1

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Inter-Arab Affairs

Iranian's Remarks on Talks With GCC 'Unfounded' *[SPA]* 3
GCC Official Sees Abatement in Iran-Iraq War *[SPA]* 3
Statement Says Shultz Visit Part of 'Scheme' *[Baghdad Voice of the PLO]* 3
Al-Quds Radio Appeal on Shultz Visit 4
Qaddumi Says Egypt 'Eager' To Assume Role *[Cairo]* 4
Palestinian Front Withdraws From PNSF *[Abu Dhabi AL-ITTIHAD 19 Feb]* 4
'Agent' Hanged in Qabatiyah for Killing Boy *[Baghdad Voice of the PLO]* 4

ARAB AFRICA

Egypt

Mubarak on Syria, Uprising, 'Abd al-Nasir 5
Lawyer Confirms Return of 'Abd al-Nasir 6
Soviet Envoy Views Mideast Problems, Relations 6
Mubarak Receives Iraqi RCC Deputy Chairman 7
Mubarak Meets Chief of Turkish General Staff *[Ankara ANATOLIA 24 Feb]* 7
Energy Minister Returns From Paris Talks 7
Commentary 'Denounces' Shamir's 'Futile' Policy 7
Israel's 'Barbaric Violence' Criticized 8
Israeli Action 'Almost Hostile' to Shultz Tour 8
Shultz Visit May Spark 'Escalation' of Conflict 8
Correction to Al-Hurani AAPSO Speech 9

Libya

Al-Qadhdhafi Receives Message from Gorbachev 9
Sudan's Prime Minister Telephones Al-Qadhdhafi 9
PFLP-GC Secretary General Arrives on Visit 9
Further on Visit by Delegation From Algeria 9
Trade Agreements Signed 9
Departs Tripoli 24 Feb 9
Sierra Leone Foreign Minister Arrives 24 Feb 10
Meets Foreign Liaison Secretary 10
Upcoming Visit by 'Criminal Shultz' Condemned 10
Jallud Attends Student Congress Opening Session 10

Morocco

USSR Envoy Arrives With Gorbachev Message 10
Briefs 10
Private TV Channel Initiated 10

Sudan

SPLA's 7, 16 February Attacks Cause Casualties 11

ARABIAN PENINSULA

Kuwait

Crown Prince Delivers National Day Address 12
Defense Minister on Peninsula Shield Force *[AL-ANBA' 20 Feb]* 13
USSR's Grinevskiy Holds News Conference *[AL-QABAS 21 Feb]* 13

Oman

Joint Statement on Taleb Ibrahimi Visit Issued 15

PDRY

Soviet Foreign Ministry Official Arrives 16
Briefs 16
IDB Loan Granted 16

Saudi Arabia

King Fahd Addresses Desert Shield Forces 16
Establishment of Ties With USSR 'Expected' *[Paris AL-MUSTAQBAL 20 Feb]* 18

United Arab Emirates

Morocco's Filali Meets Officials, Holds Talks 18
Talks With 'Abdallah 18
Statement Issued 24 Feb 18
Meets With Heir Apparent *[Rabat]* 19

Yemen Arab Republic

Jordan's Al-Masri Makes Statement, Departs 19

IRAQ

Djibouti President Leaves Baghdad After Visit 20
Saddam Husayn Holds Talks With UK's Mellor 20
Ramadan Receives British Parliamentary Team 20
Reportage on Gulf War Combat Activities 20
Communique No 3,032 20
Attack in North Denied 21

ISRAEL

Soviets Interested in 'Negotiating' Spy Swap *[MA'ARIV 25 Feb]* 22
USSR 'Planning' To Renew Diplomatic Relations 22
Peres Explains Involvement in Pipeline Affair *[HA'ARETZ 25 Feb]* 22
More on Shultz Visit, U.S. Peace Initiative 23
Peres Interviewed 25 Feb 23
Peres on 'Gaza First' Idea *[YEDI'OT AHARONOT 21 Feb]* 25
Shamir Interviewed 25 Feb 25
Shamir on Settlements Ban 27
Beilin on Overcoming Obstacles 28
Beilin for 'Reasonable Demands' 28
Moda'i Calls Plan 'Nonstarter' 29
Shultz Arrives; Met by Peres 29
Corruption 'Flourishing' in Reagan Administration *[MA'ARIV 24 Feb]* 29
MAPAM's Granot To Visit PRC 'Next Week' 30
Polish Tennis Team Cancels Visit Due to Unrest *[THE JERUSALEM POST 24 Feb]* 30
'No Great Hopes' Expressed for Tabah Compromise *[HATZOFE 24 Feb]* 30
Katyushas Land in Galilee 24 Feb; No Damage 30

Shamir Comments on Possible Early Elections 30
Shamir, Peres Comments in Inner Cabinet Meeting 30
Rabin Describes Palestinian Unrest, Policy *[DAVAR 24 Feb]* 31
ICRC 'Unprecedented' Protest on 'Brutality' *[THE JERUSALEM POST 22 Feb]* 31
50 Percent Rise in Demand for Personal Weapons *[YEDI'OT AHARONOT 23 Feb]* 32
7 New Settlements Planned for Territories *[HA'ARETZ 24 Feb]* 32
Arab Resistance Groups' Activities Reviewed *[MA'ARIV 22 Feb]* 32
More on Continuing Disturbances in Territories 33
Arab Kills Boy in Qabatiyah 33
Palestine Press Reports Death 33
Qabatiyah Incident 'New Phase' 33
Curfew Imposed on Qabatiyah 34
Qabatiyah 'Lynching' Recounted 34
Houses of Suspects Demolished 34
Update on Gaza, Judaea 34
Roundup of Incidents 25 Feb 35
Arab Youth Killed in Janin 35
Umm al-Fahm Shows Solidarity 35
Arab Death Toll Reaches 59 *['AL HAMISHMAR 22 Feb]* 35

LEBANON

Further on Kidnapping of Higgins, Response 36
UN's Goulding Optimistic 36
Da'ud: Kidnap Leader Identified *[AFP]* 36
Amal Willing To Use Force *[VOL]* 36
More UN Kidnapings Expected *[VOL]* 36
Fadlallah: Abduction Political *[RFL]* 37
Al-Amin Wants U.S. 'Killed' *[VOM]* 37
Further on Abduction of UNRWA Employees 37
PFLP's Salah Handed ID Papers *[VOL]* 37
Palestinians Not Responsible *[VOL]* 37
Clerics in South Prohibit Abduction, Infighting *[VOL]* 38
Fatah, Hizballah Plan To Kidnap Syrian Officer *[VOL]* 38
Hizballah Gunmen Attack Amal Roadblock in South *[VOL]* 38
7 Amal Gunmen Wounded *[RFL]* 38
6th Brigade Replaces Amal on Contact Lines *[VOL]* 38
Al-Huss, Ivorian Envoy Discuss Attacks, Ties 38
Diplomatic Relations Established with Maldives 38
Ghanaian UNIFIL Soldier Wounded by Amal Gunmen *[RFL]* 39
SLA's Lahd 'Warns' UNIFIL on Al-Qantarah Death *[VOH]* 39
Fundamentalists Shell Galilee Settlements *[VOL]* 39
Israeli Military Activities Reported 24 Feb 39
Troops Arrest 3 Palestinians *[RFL]* 39
Gunboats Approach Sidon Coast *[RFL]* 39
Air Reconnaissance Over Tyre *[VOL]* 39
Car Bomb Explodes in West Beruit 24 Feb *[AFP]* 39
Passenger, 3 Pedestrians Killed 39

SYRIA

Shultz Urged Not To Ignore 'Arab Interests' 41
Talks Begin With Italy's Giulio Andreotti 41

SOUTH ASIA

Afghanistan

Resistance Picks Interim Government Leader *[AFP]* 43
Sayyed Amin Departs for USSR, Hungary 43
Kirghiz SSR Delegation Arrives for Talks 43
USSR Civil Aviation Ministry Delegation Arrives 43
Received by Nazar Muhammad 43

Kabul, Other Areas Receive USSR Aid, Money 43
UNHCR Delegation Arrives in Kabul 23 Feb 44
Defense Minister Opens Army Training Facility 44
Najibullah Meets With Balkh Province Elders 44
Group Joins National Reconciliation Process 44
Briefs 45
Mas'ud at Soviet Transport Exhibit 45
Writers Union Elects Chairman 45

Bangladesh

Army Ordered To Maintain Election Security 45
'Dozen' Crude Bombs Explode in Chittagong *[AFP]* 45
Workers Clash With Police; 15 Injured *[AFP]* 45
Khaleda Invites Hasina to Unity Rally *[THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER 18 Feb]* 46

India

Surface-to-Surface Missile Successfully Tested 46
4 Killed in Punjab; Gandhi, Governor Confer 47
Lok Dal Leader, Others Killed in Punjab 47
Polish Foreign Minister, Gandhi Hold Talks 47
Parliament Briefed on Visits by Foreign Ships 47

Iran

IRGC Launches 'Zafar-6' Operation in Kirkuk 47
500 Iraqis Reportedly Killed 47
Capture of Heights Noted 48
Success in Second Axis 48
Further on 'Zafar-6' Operation 48
Iraqi Roads Captured 48
150 Iraqis Killed 49
Khatem ol-Anbiya' Communique 49
Lebanese Muslims Prepare To 'Welcome' Shultz 49
Musavi Condemns Saudi 'Insolence' Over Hajj 50
Velayati Returns From Visit to Indonesia 50
Velayati Sends Message to SFRY Counterpart 50
Turkish Official Discusses Trade With Nabavi 50
Mo'ayeri Receives New Italian Ambassador 51
Prime Minister Chairs Research Council Meeting 51
Cabinet Discusses Bombing, Banker's Report 51
IRGC Unit Announces Dates for Troop Dispatch 51
Iraqi Helicopters Attack Iraqi Villages 52
Joint Staff Communiques Detail Recent Operations 52
Communique No 3,122 52
Communique No 3,123 52

Pakistan

'Severe Explosion' Reported in Peshawar *[BAKHTAR]* 52
Talks With India Over Wular Barrage Issue End 53
Ziaul Haq Comments on Press Role, Afghanistan 53
Junejo, Japanese Envoy Discuss Afghan Issue *[KYODO]* 53
President Receives PLO Special Envoy 24 Feb 53
Ziaul Haq Speaks on Strengthening Naval Power 53

Sri Lanka

Soviet Official Compares LTTE, Contras *[AFP]* 54
President Announces Amnesty, Council Elections 54

25 February Middle East and South Asia Review

LD251415 [Editorial Report]

Israel

West Bank Violence—An Arab youth was killed and another seriously wounded when IDF soldiers fired to disperse a "mass riot" in the Janin refugee camp 25 February, Jerusalem radio reported. Four other youths were injured in other incidents the same morning.

Meanwhile, police and the IDF are investigating the 24 February lynching of a resident of Qabatiyah village who was viewed by other Palestinians as a "collaborator" with Israeli authorities, the radio noted. The man, who was licensed to carry an Uzi submachine gun, opened fire at villagers marching toward his house, killing a 4-year-old child and wounding over 14 other people.

Enraged demonstrators set his house on fire and lynched him. The IDF subsequently arrested 20 suspects in connection with the incident, the radio said, and IDF officers warned that the lynching may signal a new phase in the Palestinian unrest.

Baghdad Voice of PLO radio confirmed that the "masses" of Qabatiyah hanged an "agent" as a punishment for his "ugly crime" against local citizens.

Shultz Visit—Expectations in Jerusalem on the eve of Secretary of State George Shultz' visit are "low," IDF radio reported, noting that Likud and Alignment ministers have accepted that it is impossible to formulate a common political understanding between the two parties on the peace process.

Nevertheless, Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres told Jerusalem radio that it would be better if he and Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir could meet jointly with Shultz so that the Israeli leadership can maintain a "dignified national appearance."

Rabin on 1982 'Mistake'—Israel made a "strategic mistake" by launching a war against the Palestinians in 1982, Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin told a Knesset committee in remarks cited by DAVAR. He viewed Israel's current "war" with the Palestinians as part of the aftermath of the 1982 conflict.

PLO, Syrian Comment on Shultz Visit

Baghdad Voice of PLO radio broadcast a joint statement by the PLO and the "unified national leadership of the uprising" denouncing the Shultz visit as part of an "imperialist-Zionist-reactionary scheme" that counts on the participation of "disabled Arab sides." This scheme aims at "aborting the uprising" and at finding a "U.S. solution to the Palestine question which suits Israel." The statement also warned "anyone who might be thinking of departing from the national consensus that the people's arm is long."

In an editorial cited by Damascus radio, Syria's AL-THAWRAH asserted that the Camp David process has failed and any attempt to revive it would be a "waste of time." "We do not believe that a prudent secretary, such as Shultz, will fail to take these facts into consideration," the paper added.

Lebanon

A Palestinian woman and two other people were killed by a car-bomb explosion in West Beirut 24 February, Beirut radio reported. AFP said the car driver parked the booby-trapped vehicle in the Al-Hamra' District and walked away minutes before the explosion.

In southern Lebanon, one SLA soldier was killed and three wounded in a clash with "terrorists" in the security strip, according to Jerusalem radio. Meanwhile, Amal Movement militiamen continued their searches for kidnapped U.S. Lieutenant Colonel William Higgins, AFP noted. The agency cited Amal official Da'ud Da'ud's view that Higgins is in the Tyre or Al-Nabatiyah area, "probably" in the Hizballah stronghold of Jibshit.

Iran-Iraq Conflict

A communique carried by IRNA announced the start of the "Zafar-6" operations in northern Iraq, east of Kirkuk, 24 February. Islamic combatants inflicted "more than" 530 casualties on the Iraqis and succeeded in capturing heights and roads as well as destroying several Iraqi bases. However, an Iraqi spokesman cited by INA denied the Iranian claims, terming them part of a series of "unbelievable lies."

GCC Affairs

A "responsible source" declared to SPA that the GCC had not proposed holding a meeting with Iran "at any level." The spokesman described as "unfounded" a recent assertion by Iranian Deputy Foreign Minister 'Ali Mohammad Besharati that talks were being prepared.

In remarks carried by the agency, Saudi King Fahd stressed the "absolute trust" and "full solidarity" which exist among the GCC countries. The king, who was on an inspection tour of the Desert Shield forces, also noted that Gulf military cooperation is aimed at self-defense not aggression.

Iran-Turkey

Bilateral "understanding" on issues of border security, including the "campaign against terrorism" and the extradition of criminals, has been reached, IRNA reported, citing a statement by the head of a "political delegation" to Ankara.

Afghanistan

The Afghan charge d'affaires in Islamabad rejected as "unacceptable and nonnegotiable" the mujahidin communique announcing the formation of an interim government, AFP reported 25 February. The diplomat charged that the communique "completely ignores" the present government, and he pointed out that the word "democracy" does not appear in the document.

According to "informed resistance sources" cited by the agency, Ahmad Shah, identified as deputy chief of the Islamic unity organization, has been chosen to head the interim administration which hopes to replace the present government in Kabul and at the Geneva talks.

Egypt

President Husni Mubarak declared that the name of former leader Jamal 'Abd al-Nasir will not be besmirched by his son's status as one of the first three defendants in the Egypt's Revolution case, MENA reported. Mubarak pledged that there will be no "interference" in the investigation, and he called on all citizens to respect the "free and just" Egyptian judiciary.

The Beirut paper AL-SHIRA' reported 22 February that Muhammad Nur al-Din, the first defendant, explained that his recent suicide attempt was caused by "psychological torture" aimed at making him implicate the entire 'Abd al-Nasir family.

Inter-Arab Affairs

Iranian's Remarks on Talks With GCC 'Unfounded'

LD242138 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 2100 GMT 24 Feb 88

[Text] Riyadh, 24 Feb (SPA)—A responsible source at the GCC Permanent Secretariat has replied to an SPA question on a report carried by Tehran radio. The report quoted Mohammad Ali Besharati, the Iranian senior deputy foreign minister, as having said that Iran had agreed to the holding of a joint meeting with the members of the GCC; that a meeting of the deputy foreign ministers of the GCC and Iran would be held in the first stage; that this would be followed by a meeting of the foreign ministers of the seven countries; and that a program had been prepared in advance concerning sensitive matters. The source said that no one had proposed to Iran the holding of a joint meeting of GCC and Iranian officials at any level, and that the statements attributed to the Iranian deputy minister are unfounded.

GCC Official Sees Abatement in Iran-Iraq War

LD250201 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 2340 GMT 24 Feb 88

[Text] Washington, 24 Feb (SPA)—The secretary general of the GCC, 'Abdullah Bishara, who is currently visiting Washington, has said that the GCC acted with patience and prudence concerning the events in the area of the Arabian Gulf during 1987.

He added that the diplomatic efforts of the GCC succeeded in arousing international concern over the continuation of the Iraq-Iran war.

Mr Bishara added that the intensity of the war between Iran and Iraq will weaken a lot by the end of the current year.

Answering a question about the U.S. secretary of state's tour of the Middle East, Mr Bishara said: In the Arabian Gulf we can never be detached from what happens in the occupied Palestinian territories. Our efforts are not confined to ending the Iraq-Iran war; we shall continue our efforts until the aspirations of the Palestinian people are realized.

Statement Says Shultz Visit Part of 'Scheme'

JN242129 Baghdad Voice of the PLO in Arabic 1709 GMT 24 Feb 88

[Statement issued by the PLO and the "Unified National Leadership of the Uprising" in the occupied territories—place, date not given]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. If people decide to live, fate will certainly respond to their wish. Our giant Palestinian people, blessed be your arms which forge the forthcoming Palestinian victory. Glory to the Palestinian blood which is irrigating the soil of the beloved homeland and whose pureness is erecting a fence protecting the glorious uprising's achievements.

O wondrous miracle which is matchless throughout history. O guardians of the military march! O generals of stones! O our kinfolk who always foil the liquidatory schemes and plots hatched by the U.S. Black House and its charlatan envoys who try to circumvent Palestinian reality through their capitulationist plans and who insist on having Zionist ideas and reactionary instruments.

Hence, their equations will continue to be losers as long as they ignore the most difficult figure in the equation of the conflict—the PLO, the sole, legitimate representative of the Palestinian people. This is also as long as they continue to ignore our people's national, legitimate rights, headed by rights to repatriation, self-determination, and the establishment of a Palestinian state on our national soil with Jerusalem as its capital.

George Shultz' visit to the region is a link in the chain of the imperialist-Zionist-reactionary scheme which is aimed at aborting the uprising of the age which has reversed political balances in the interest of our national cause. This scheme is also aimed at undermining world solidarity and support for our legitimate rights and at finding a U.S. solution to the Palestine question which suits Israel.

This scheme counts on the participation of some disabled Arab sides which have lost their remaining dignity under the blows of the stone-throwing children, the generation of victory. Our people are always prepared to make sacrifices. They are the people of the impregnable revolution. They will not take the bait which some are trying to peddle with sweet words which those who are misled receive favorably.

We say it loud and clear: He who wants a real peace for the Palestine question must head for the PLO, the sole, legitimate representative of the Palestinian people. These people are the main party to the conflict without whom there will be no peace. We warn anyone who might be thinking of departing from the national consensus that the people's arm is long and that they will be run over by the bandwagon of history and thrown by the side of the militant road. Our people and their gigantic revolution will continue to lie in wait for whoever tries to harm the national achievements and gains. They will have no mercy on anyone.

On this occasion, the unified uprising leadership call on the masses of stone confrontation and continuous revolutionary expansion to escalate forms of struggle against the Zionist occupation and its various establishments.

We will not be terrified by the concentrations of the barbaric machine of repression and the means of killing, destruction, and terrorism invented by the Nazism of the 20th century.

Our revolutionary march will continue with the firmness of its will and the srtrength of the resolve of its heroes. Our revolution is crowned by eternal, renewed struggle and readiness for making sacrifices. This struggle is the sole and certain guarantee for achieving our national objectives and attaining our legitimate rights to freedom, self-determination, and the establishment of our dear Palestinian state on our national soil with Jerusalem as capital under the leadership of the PLO, our sole, legitimate representative.

Al-Quds Radio Appeal on Shultz Visit

JN251152 (Clandestine) Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio in Arabic 1027 GMT 25 Feb 88

[Text] O brother strugglers, our kinfolk in all of Palestine: What does U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz want from his tour of the region? What plans is he bringing in his diplomatic pouch during his visit to Palestine today?

In fact, the U.S. initiative brought by Mr Shultz provides only for a phased settlement and an autonomy that retains Zionist rule. Consequently, the initiative aims to destroy your national aspirations and goals of holding on to the land and to Palestinian identity. It also aims to end your heroic uprising.

Brothers, make your voice heard loud and clear in the face of Mr Shultz. Make him hear the voice of justice, the voice of the Palestinian giant that accepts no alternative to freedom. Organize your ranks and be united. Do not give any opportunity to any infiltrator, defeatist, capitulationist, or agent to infiltrate your ranks.

Brother strugglers, the entire Arab nation backs you. The whole world is following your struggle. All freemen everywhere support your heroic steadfastness in the face of American-Zionist suppression.

Blessed be your arms. Be patient and have forebearance. God is with us. Victory is near. Together along the path of liberating the land and man.

Al-Quds. The Palestinian Arab radio on the path of liberating the land and man. Test transmission.

Qaddumi Says Egypt 'Eager' To Assume Role

NC241426 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 24 Feb 88

[Text] Faruq Qaddumi, head of the PLO Political Department, has expressed his confidence that Egypt, the strongest Arab country, is eager to assume its role in supporting the struggle of the Palestinian people for their national rights.

In an exclusive interview with our radio correspondent in Addis Ababa, Qaddumi said the PLO demands that Egypt and Jordan stress during their coming talks with U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz the need for the restoration of the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people, chief among them being the Palestinian people's right to self-determination and for an independent state of their own, as well as refugees' rights to return to their homes in implementation of UN resolutions.

Qaddumi said that the PLO rejects autonomy and self-rule [al-hukm al-dhatiy wa al-idrah al-dhatiyah], as well as partial withdrawal. The PLO, he said, also rejects any elections held under Israeli occupation. Qaddumi said the PLO supports the idea of an international peace conference but believes such a conference should be held on sound bases commensurate with UN resolutions; namely, that Israeli occupation must end and the United Nations should take charge of the administration in the occupied territories for a specific period.

Qaddumi concluded by stressing that the Palestinian uprising will continue until the Palestinians regain their legitimate national rights.

Palestinian Front Withdraws From PNSF

JN241335 Abu Dhabi AL-ITTIHAD in Arabic 19 Feb 88 p 8

[Text] Damascus—A responsible source in the Palestinian Popular Struggle Front has stated that the Front has withdrawn from the PNSF. The source told AL-ITTIHAD yesterday that the decision was made in face of the fact that the parties in the PNSF have not reached an agreement on a working plan on the level of Palestinian unity and the general policy the PNSF must adopt toward Arab countries.

'Agent' Hanged in Qabatiyah for Killing Boy

JN242109 Baghdad Voice of the PLO in Arabic 1906 GMT 24 Feb 88

[Excerpt] Brethren: We have just received the following from our brothers in the occupied territories: The masses of Qabatiyah have succeeded in capturing the agent called Muhammad al-'Ayid after attacking him and divesting him of his firearm.

The sentence passed by the Palestinian masses—the sentence of the uprising, the sentence of the people—was then carried out against him by hanging him to death and tying him to an electricity post in the center of town. The masses also burned this agent's house as punishment for the ugly crime he committed today against the townspeople when he participated with the occupation forces in firing heavily at the Qabatiyah people, martyring the child Muhammad Qasim Muhammad Abu Zayd (Kamil), 4 years old, and wounding a large number of citizens. [passage omitted]

Egypt

Mubarak on Syria, Uprising, 'Abd al-Nasir

NC241554 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1500 GMT 24 Feb 88

[Text] Ismailia, 24 Feb (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak has emphasized that the Armed Forces constitute a shield for Egypt and that these forces are in the forefront of all Egyptians in defending Egypt's interests. President Mubarak also expressed his eagerness to speak frankly to the cadres of the Armed Forces as Egyptian citizens. He noted his pride in the Armed Forces as a school for true men and as an institution from which he gained his experience.

This was disclosed in a statement made by Information Minister Safwat al-Sharif following President Mubarak's 2-hour meeting today with the leaders of the 2d and 3d Field Armies. During the meeting, President Mubarak spoke on foreign policy, noting that Egypt's policy is based on clear-cut and inalienable principles. He pointed out that Egypt's foreign and domestic policies are closely related.

President Mubarak underlined Egypt's leading role in the region in light of its military capabilities, cultural and industrial potentials, heritage, democracy and freedom, and the role played by its sons and universities. All of these considerations impose a duty and responsibility upon Egypt, just as they impose a responsibility upon the entire world toward Egypt and a duty to respect it and support all its causes.

During his meeting with the leaders of the 2d and 3d Field Armies, President Mubarak reaffirmed that there are no Egyptian troops outside the country's territories. He added: We do not send our troops abroad for money; we are not mercenaries. President Mubarak noted in this respect Egypt's Arab responsibilities, stressing that Egypt's decision on the issues of peace and war is governed by its people, institutions, and will. He added: We support peace and cooperate with our brothers. He underscored that Egypt's security is part of the Arab world's security.

President Mubarak pointed out that Egypt respects its international and Arab commitments. He noted in this respect the importance of cooperation, coordination, and exchange of expertise between Egypt and its Arab sisters.

During the meeting, President Mubarak reiterated that the Arabs' power rests in their unity. He alluded in this regard to the Arab countries' stand, the resumption of relations between Egypt and its sisterly states, his tour of certain Arab states, and his meeting with the leaders of Saudi Arabia, the UAE, Kuwait, Qatar, Bahrain, Oman, Iraq, and Morocco.

Pesident Mubarak then touched on the course of relations between Egypt and Syria since the 1973 October war, the philosophy and ideology governing the Syrian regime's behavior, and that regime's irrational and unrealistic views of Arab issues, which could possibly drag Egypt and the Arab world into unexpected dangers and ordeals.

President Mubarak said that Egypt does not want the Palestinian issue to remain one of "missed opportunities." He mentioned that since the 1948 partition resolution, there has been a persistent rejection of all resolutions and solutions, as well as the replacement of serious efforts by oratory, slogans, and oneupmanship.

President Mubarak said that the Palestinian uprising has forcefully come to the forefront as a "serious alarm signal" which cannot be switched off. He warned that if the peace-loving forces and the concerned parties fail to act with a judicious sense of urgency, a bad situation will only become worse.

Mubarak said that the Palestinian uprising against occupation is an outcome of the relentless pressures which the Palestinians have had to endure while the world has paid no attention to their cause. The uprising has to be taken seriously, Mubarak said, which explains why Egypt has developed its initiative aimed at promoting Palestinian rights and mobilizing world public opinion behind this issue.

Speaking of U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz' upcoming visit to the Middle East, Mubarak expressed hope that Shultz would bring along "new, realistic ideas" that would result in a positive outcome. Mubarak said that "old formulas" have been exhausted and that there are new realities to be considered.

Mubarak said: We have been, and continue to be, eager to break the impass facing the Palestinian issue. All the parties concerned, including Egypt, should play their role in spite of the difficulties, and search for a solution in an atmosphere of flexibility, Mubarak stated.

President Mubarak also discussed the developments in the Gulf war and explained Egypt's stand on that conflict. He gave an account of Iraq's abilities to defend its soil and reiterated that Egypt's security and that of the Gulf are interwined.

Touching on Egypt's relations with the outside world, President Husni Mubarak affirmed that Egypt cooperates with all countries on an equal footing and on the basis of mutual respect and common interests. The president reiterated in this regard that Egypt places its dignity and sovereignty above all other considerations.

As regards Egyptian-Sudanese relations, President Mubarak asserted Egypt's eagerness to establish stability in Sudan. This explains Egypt's role in bringing the views of Sudan and Ethiopia closer together, to resolve all outstanding problems between them, Mubarak said.

During the meeting, the president also alluded to Egypt's relations with Libya. He said Egypt is eager to maintain relations of good-neighborliness, but at the same time it does not allow any vituperations. President Mubarak went on to explain the economic situation which the Libyan people are confronting as a result of the exhaustion of their resources. He said that this situation is the consequence of personal objectives and the desire to remain in power, which do not serve the interests of the fraternal Libyan people.

Referring to a number of national issues, President Mubarak stressed that economic reform in Egypt is taking place according to a method that the citizens in the near and distant futures will find bearable. He noted that the aim of this is to achieve social and economic stability, and denied rumors about lifting subsidies. He stressed that this issue is out of the question.

Mubarak reviewed the great achievements made during the first 5-year development plan, particularly in the sphere of infrastructure. He pointed out, however, that a great deal still needs to be done during the current 5-year development plan. He noted that emphasis has been given to the sphere of infrastructure, which was in a state of collapse. He pointed out that the cost of the infrastructure projects during the first 5-year development plan approximated 25 billion pounds. He emphasized that his method of work is not intended to be seen as showing off, but as practical work that will serve the present and the future.

Concerning rumors about a Cabinet reshuffling in Egypt in March, Mubarak asked: "Why should there be a reshuffling?" He affirmed that he has no reason to carry out a reshuffling at the present time.

Regarding reports that there is thinking about dissolving the People's Assembly, Mubarak asserted that this is out of the question. He noted in this connection that the people's representatives are playing their supervisory and legislative role perfectly, and that they are performing their duty in a more objective way than at any time before. He stressed in this regard that his method is not to engage the people in reshuffling, changes, and elections. Our method, he said, is focused on enhancing incentives and potential for work, construction, raising the standard of living, and promoting development.

Regarding the issue of the Egypt's Revolution Organization, whose members were detained recently, Mubarak said that it is a regrettable issue. He expressed regret that one of the defendants is the son of leader Jamal 'Abd al-Nasir. Mubarak emphasized in this regard that this will not affect the name or history of leader 'Abd al-Nasir, whom all Egypt esteems and takes pride in as a leader of Egypt and of the 23 July Revolution. He said that the entire world, the Arab nation, and Africa are proud of leader 'Abd al-Nasir.

Mubarak asserted that there will be no interference in the investigations, noting that the principle that the entire Egyptian nation has known since he assumed power is that there will be no cover-up of any violation of the law, deviation, or corruption. He said that all Egyptians are equal before the law and that a defendant is innocent until proven guilty. He emphasized that the judiciary in Egypt is free and just. He expressed the hope that those who practice oneupmanship and seek fame, money, or sensation will take their hands off this issue as long as the law in Egypt is supreme and the verdict of the judiciary is the final word.

Lawyer Confirms Return of 'Abd al-Nasir

NC242251 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2230 GMT 24 Feb 88

[Text] Cairo, 24 Feb (MENA)—Ahmad al-Khawajah, lawyers doyen and defense counsel for Eng Khalid 'Abd al-Nasir, the second defendant in the "Egypt's Revolution" case, has denied that Khalid will go to Libya or any other state to reside there.

In a statement to MENA today, Al-Khawajah said that Khalid will return to Egypt on the day when the prosecution begins to present its case. He pointed out that legal or other considerations will determine whether Khalid is kept in prison or not during the period when the case is under consideration.

Soviet Envoy Views Mideast Problems, Relations

NC241659 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1605 GMT 24 Feb 88

[Text] Cairo, 24 Feb (MENA)—Soviet Ambassador in Cairo Gennadiy Zhuravlev has said that the U.S. proposals regarding the Middle East do not take into account the interests of all the parties concerned. He added that the proposals concentrate on interim measures, noting that what is needed is for efforts to be concentrated on reaching a final solution to the Middle East crisis.

Zhuravlev spoke today at a news conference held to review the outcome of the recent talks in Moscow between Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze and U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz. He said that his country believes that the only way to resolve the Middle East problem is through an international peace conference. He added that this belief is also shared by nonaligned, Islamic, and peace-loving nations.

The Soviet ambassador underlined the need to move for peace swiftly, with the supervision of the United Nations and its Security Council. He said that the United States does not have a definite plan to resolve the Middle East crisis, only some ideas.

Zhuravlev said that the Soviet foreign minister and the U.S. secretary of state have agreed to resume their talks following Shultz' tour of the Middle East. This, he noted, would be their second session of talks, adding that it is scheduled to be held in Washington on 22 March.

Zhuravlev said that the Soviet Union does not object to the holding of bilateral or trilateral negotiations within the framework of an international peace conference, nor to the implementation of a settlement in stages agreed upon by the concerned parties, also within the framework of an international conference.

The Soviet ambassador said that Egyptian-Soviet ties are moving ahead and that his country is making preparations for the visit to Moscow in July by Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid, Egypt's deputy prime minister and foreign minister. He also mentioned that Dr Butrus Ghali, minister of state for foreign affairs and head of the Egyptian-Soviet Friendship Association, will visit the USSR in the middle of this year.

On the Soviet Union's insistence on establishing an international force in the Gulf, Zhuravlev pointed out that this proposal is currently under discussion at the UN Security Council. The proposal calls for the formation of an international group to replace the Western forces, provided that this is applied either in the state of war or the state of no war, as he put it.

Asked about Soviet-Saudi relations following the visit to Riyadh by Vladimir Polyakov, the Soviet ambassador in Cairo said that relations have been developing lately in various domains. He noted that Polyakov's visit is the first by a Soviet official to Saudi Arabia in 50 years. Polyakov forwarded a message from Soviet leader Gorbachev to the Saudi monarch, dealing with the Middle East problem, the Gulf war, and Afghanistan. Zhuravlev denied that the issue of opening embassies in the two countries was discussed during the visit.

As regards Afghanistan, the Soviet ambassador in Cairo affirmed that the Soviet Union has no secret plans. He added: We do not want Afghanistan to be loyal to any powers. We seek to establish relations of good-neighborliness with it.

Mubarak Receives Iraqi RCC Deputy Chairman

NC242121 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 2100 GMT 24 Feb 88

[Excerpt] President Muhammad Husni Mubarak today received Iraqi RCC Chairman 'Izzat Ibrahim, who arrived in Cairo at the head of a delegation yesterday for a 4-day visit to the Arab Republic of Egypt. Prime Minister 'Atif Sidqi and Iraqi Ambassador to Egypt Samir Najm attended the meeting. [passage omitted]

Mubarak Meets Chief of Turkish General Staff

TA241648 Ankara ANATOLIA in English 1415 GMT 24 Feb 88

[Text] Cairo (A.A.)—General Necip Torumtay, chief of Turkish General Staff, currently paying an official visit to Egypt, was received by Egypt's head of state Husni Mubarak, AA correspondent reported from the Egyptian capital today.

Torumtay's host Chief of Egyptian General Staff Abu Shinaf and Turkey's Ambassador in Cairo Candemir Onhon were also present at the reception.

Cooperation foreseen between Turkey and Egypt in military fields was discussed at the meeting, the same source added.

Energy Minister Returns From Paris Talks

NC242242 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2201 GMT 24 Feb 88

[Excerpt] Cairo, 24 Feb (MENA)—Electricity and Energy Minister Mahir Abazah returned to Cairo from Paris tonight following a 4-day visit to France at the invitation of the French Government.

Upon arrival, Abazah said that he and the French minister of industry and energy discussed aspects of cooperation in the power generating projects in Abu Qir and the linking of the electricity network with Jordan. French expertise, he added, is involved in these projects. [passage omitted]

Commentary 'Denounces' Shamir's 'Futile' Policy

NC221112 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0715 GMT 22 Feb 88

[Text] Cairo, 22 Feb (MENA)—The newspaper AL-AHRAM denounces Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir's futile policy, through which he is trying to sink his country in quicksand.

In today's commentary, the newspaper says that the demonstrations staged by Israeli Labor Party youths in front of Yitzhaq Shamir's home, during which they carried "alarm clocks" in order to ridicule him about awaking from his sleep, were a real illustration of Israeli policy, which needs to wake up.

The newspaper also expresses its dissatisfaction with Shamir's worn-out and outdated concepts, with which he is trying to let Israel live in the past.

AL-AHRAM says that this is clear from Shamir's frivolous resistance, even his use of internationally banned weapons, and his futile struggle against principles and

ideas entrenched in the consciences of peoples and individuals since the end of World War II, as well as his struggle against UN resolutions and the advice of responsible governments.

The newspaper adds that under local and international pressure all that Shamir could condescend to give were mere formalities regarding so-called self-administration. This does not even give the Palestinians the hope that one day they will be able to gain their legitimate rights, since Shamir continues to refuse to exchange territory for peace.

In conclusion, AL-AHRAM says that with his ingenious vision, Shamir has divested the issue of its context and has rendered it meaningless by his rejection of any other formula. He is even surprised because the world refuses to share his futuristic vision. The paper adds that Shamir needs a shock from his own people to wake him up to the present, in which he refuses to live.

Israel's 'Barbaric Violence' Criticized
NC240725 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2245 GMT 23 Feb 88

[Text] Cairo, 23 Feb (MENA)—AL-AKHBAR asserts that the Palestinian people in the occupied territories, without any outside help, have succeeded in making their voices heard by everyone. They have drawn the attention of the world to their tragedy, which has become impossible to tolerate without a solution.

In its editorial tomorrow, Wednesday, the paper says that Israel has at last admitted that it is impossible to rule by force the 1.5 million Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza Strip. It adds that the Palestinian people's steadfastness and their continuation of the uprising, which is daily gaining in strength and solidity, have forced Israeli Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin to admit that his heavily armed forces cannot subject this people, which has revolted for its very dignity and is determined to liberate its land, regardless of the sacrifices.

The paper notes that Rabin stated before his officers and soldiers that his forces are facing a new kind of challenge, which he described as a civil war waged by civilian Palestinians, and that the uprising is not Palestinian terrorism.

AL-AKHBAR goes on to say that, despite this admission by the Israeli executioner Rabin, acts of barbaric violence that are devoid of any moral or human principles are continuing and even becoming more rapacious and vicious in preparation for U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz' visit to the region.

Concluding its editorial, AL-AKHBAR says that the Palestinian uprising has awakened consciences, even inside Israel itself, and all we hope for now is that it will succeed in awakening the consciences in Washington, which have been dormant for a long time.

Israeli Action 'Almost Hostile' to Shultz Tour
NC240956 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0630 GMT 24 Feb 88

[Text] Cairo, 24 Feb (MENA)—The newspaper AL-AHRAM states that, for the first time in the history of the notably intimate relations between Israel and the United States, U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz will begin his tour of the Middle East amid intensive and hostile Israeli propaganda.

In its editorial published in today's issue, AL-AHRAM says Shultz was asked by U.S. President Ronald Reagan to make this move, in the framework of gaining support for the new U.S. proposals on how to handle the long-standing issue. However, it is apparent that Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir has already taken an opposite line of action, which is almost hostile to Shultz' tour and the U.S. proposals.

The paper points out that the Israeli campaign implicitly warns the United States that Shultz' tour is destined to fail if it includes any attempt to convince Israel of the formula of "land for peace," since the rejection of such a formula has become an Israeli principle.

The paper concludes that it has become obvious that Israel wants to put a halt to any action, even before verifying its direction. In its effort to avoid the inconveniences and pressures bound to result from the international peace conference, Israel deliberately intends to cancel the negotiations which are supposed to take place within its framework.

Shultz Visit May Spark 'Escalation' of Conflict
NC250751 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0635 GMT 25 Feb 88

[Text] Cairo, 25 Feb (MENA)—AL-AHRAM newspaper has warned of the serious consequences that may ensue from the deliberate escalation of the ongoing conflict in the occupied Arab territories during U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz' visit to the region.

In its editorial today, the paper says that both parties to the present conflict in Israel and the occupied territories have stressed the necessity to prepare for this visit. It notes that the occupation authorities have brought in about 1,500 additional troops as reinforcements to confront any new wave in the revolutionary Palestinian uprising on this occasion.

Meanwhile, the paper adds, the leaders of the uprising have announced a daily program in response to this visit, consisting of public defiance of curfews, hunger strikes, a general strike, and demonstrations throughout the occupied territories.

The paper points out that Israel is trying to appear as if it is only seeking to calm the situation during Shultz' visit, to enable him to listen carefully to what its officials say.

In conclusion, the paper asserts that Israel is trying to prove to Shultz that it is doing no more than maintaining security in the occupied territories in the face of a continuing escalation by the Palestinians. The aim of this, the paper adds, is to ensure that the Israelis do not become the target of criticism or objections, in contrast to the others who are doing whatever they like through overt resistance to law and order.

Correction to Al-Hurani AAPSO Speech

The following correction pertains to the item headlined "PLO's Al-Hurani Speaks," published in the 24 February Near East & South Asia DAILY REPORT, page 8:

column two, paragraph one, sentence one should read: ...stressed the PLO's rejection of any meeting... (changing word "reception" to "rejection")

Libya

Al-Qadhdhafi Receives Message from Gorbachev

LD241409 Tripoli Domestic Service in Arabic 1330 GMT 24 Feb 88

[Text] The brother leader of the revolution received the ambassador of the Soviet Union to the Great Jamahiriyah, who conveyed a message to the brother leader from Mikhail Gorbachev, general secretary of the Soviet Communist Party.

Sudan's Prime Minister Telephones Al-Qadhdhafi

LD232134 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1921 GMT 23 Feb 88

[Text] Tripoli, 23 Feb (JANA)—Brother Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi, Sudanese prime minister, telephoned the brother leader of the revolution to reassure himself about his health. Brother al-Sadiq al-Mahdi expressed to the leader his wishes of good health.

PFLP-GC Secretary General Arrives on Visit

LD232129 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1920 GMT 23 Feb 88

[Text] Tripoli, 23 Feb (JANA)—Brother Ahmad Jibril, secretary general of the PFLP-GC, arrived in Tripoli this evening for a visit to the Great Jamahiriyah.

Further on Visit by Delegation From Algeria

Trade Agreements Signed

LD241306 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1158 GMT 24 Feb 88

[Text] Tripoli, 24 Feb (JANA)—An agreement on the setting up of a Libyan Arab-Algerian joint company for industrial development and the minutes of an agreement on cooperation and trade exchange were signed in Tripoli this morning.

The agreement and the minutes of cooperation were signed by brother secretary of the People's General Committee for Industry and Brother Zitouni Messaoudi, minister of light industry in sisterly Algeria.

The agreement stipulates that this company will take charge of preparing technical and economic studies and implementing industrial joint ventures in light industries.

The minutes include cooperation and trade exchange with regard to cement, leather products, tobacco, soap, household and hygiene products, detergent products, soap, sulfur, flat glass, and caustic soda.

The minutes also include a draft agreement on the exchange of technical expertise between the two fraternal countries.

The signature ceeremony was attended by Abdel Kader Hadjar, Algeria's ambassador to the Great Jamahiriyah.

Departs Tripoli 24 Feb

LD242008 Tripoli Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 24 Feb 88

[Text] Brother Zitouni Messaoudi, member of the Algerian FLN Central Committee and minister of light industries, and his accompanying delegation left Tripoli today following a visit to the Great Jamahiriyah.

In a statement to JANA before his departure, Brother Zitouni said: The results of the visit were satisfactory. In line with previous results, today we reached an agreement on an Algerian-Libyan company for developing industries, especially the processing industries. We also agreed to establish production centers and units. The agreement is comprehensive and includes provisions for establishing complementary industries and unifying industries for the benefit of the Arab peoples in Libya and Algeria, the Arab Maghreb, and Arab unity as a whole.

He added: During this visit I was honored to meet Brother Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, and we thank our beloved leader Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi for these results. We wish him good health to continue his role in the struggle. We also thank all the cadres and secretaries and I extend my greetings to the fraternal Libyan Arab people.

Sierra Leone Foreign Minister Arrives 24 Feb

LD242017 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1810 GMT 24 Feb 88

[Text] Tripoli, 24 Feb (JANA)—The foreign minister of Sierra Leone, Brother Abdul Karim Koroma, and his accompanying delegation arrived in Tripoli today on a visit to the Great Jamahiriyah.

In a statement on his arrival, the Sierra Leone minister said that his visit to the Jamahiriyah is at the invitation of his brother the secretary of the People's Committee of the People's Bureau for Foreign Liaison and within the framework of the existing good bilateral relations.

Meets Foreign Liaison Secretary

LD251009 Tripoli JANA in English 0924 GMT 25 Feb 88

[Text] Tripoli, Al-Nuwar [February] 25, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY—The secretary of the People's Committee for Foreign Liaison Bureau met yesterday Al-Haji Abdul Karim Koroma, the foreign minister of Sierra Leone. The two sides have discussed in this meeting ways for furthering the existing relations between Great Jamahiriyah and Sierra Leone.

Upcoming Visit by 'Criminal Shultz' Condemned

LD241537 Tripoli JANA in English 1440 GMT 24 Feb 88

[Text] Tripoli, Al-Nuwar [February] 24, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY—The standing Secretariat of Arab People's Congress has reaffirmed that the only way out for the Arab nation is through unity.

In its statement released on the 30th anniversary of the inception of first unity in modern Arab history, the above Secretariat said that the defence of the pan-Arab presence and interests, the liberation of occupied Palestine and achieving progress depend on Arab unity.

It has hailed those who have suffered martyrdom for Arab unity and the struggle of Arab unionists in the forefront of whom was the late leader Jamal 'Abd al-Nasir.

It has called for the necessity of achieving forthwith a unity among Great Jamahiriyah, Syria and Algeria in that it will change the balance in the region and take the initiative away from the enemies.

It has paid tribute to the revolution raging in occupied Palestine by the generation of wrath and the Egyptian people led by the pan-Arab and progressive forces in their struggle against the Egyptian regime.

It has called on all progressive forces to condemn the oncoming visit of the U.S. State Department Secretary, Criminal Shultz, who wages an aggression openly against the rights of the Palestinian people and conspires in conjunction with reactionaries against the revolution of the Palestine people.

Jallud Attends Student Congress Opening Session

LD251016 Tripoli JANA in English 0925 GMT 25 Feb 88

[Text] Al-Bayan al-Awal [place name as received], Al-Nuwar [February] 25, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY—Staff Major 'Abd al-Salam Ahmad Jallud attended yesterday the opening session of the General Student Congress of Great Jamahiriyah in its 11th session held in Arab Medical College in the city of Al-Bayan al-Awal-Banghazi. The purpose of this session is to formulate the resolutions of student congresses in Great Jamahiriyah.

Morocco

USSR Envoy Arrives With Gorbachev Message

LD242205 Rabat Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 24 Feb 88

[Text] Mikhail Sytenko, Soviet ambassador and plenipotentiary, arrived in Morocco bearing a message from Soviet Leader Mikhail Gorbachev.

The ambassador said that the message concerns the political settlement of the Afghan crisis. He added that he will hold talks with officials in our country concerning matters of mutual interest.

He described Moroccan-Soviet relations as cordial and noted the existence of possibilities for expanding and deepening them within the framework of bilateral cooperation.

Briefs

Private TV Channel Initiated

Rabat, Feb 24 (MAP)—A second TV channel (private) will be launched in Morocco as of March 1989. The convention for the exploitation of this channel by the Company for Audio-Visual Studies (Soread) was signed here over the week-end by Moroccan Minister of the Interior and Information Driss Basri and Soread's Manager Delegate Fouad Filali. Promoters will be airing high-quality programs meeting the expectations and tastes of the Moroccan public in matters of education, culture and sports. The channel will also cover Europe and Western Africa via satellite and will be operated by skilled Moroccan technicians trained abroad. The equipment of the Casablanca-based channel will cost some 300 million dirhams (about $37 million). [Text] [*Rabat MAP in English 1251 GMT 24 Feb 88 LD*]

Sudan

SPLA's 7, 16 February Attacks Cause Casualties

EA242042 (Clandestine) Radio of the Sudanese People's Liberation Army in Latuka 1100 GMT 24 Feb 88

[Excerpts] On 7 February a landmine planted by SPLA forces of Bilpam Battalion blew up an enemy Commer vehicle between Malakal and Dulayb Hill. Our correspondent says that 35 police and Army personnel aboard the vehicle were all killed. [passage omitted]

SPLA units of Bright Star campaign from the Buma and Geigar Task Forces under the direct commands of Captain (Joseph Matio) and Captain (Angelo Jong Kuch) and the overall command of (Antony Bol Madut), carried out a successful raid on the enemy position inside Keyala town on 16 February 1988. Our correspondent says that many enemy troops were killed and an enemy vehicle carrying food supplies was destroyed. During the battle some of the enemy troops fled toward the Imatong Mountains, and their whereabouts are not yet known. [passage omitted]

Kuwait

Crown Prince Delivers National Day Address

LD242007 Kuwait KUNA in English 1828 GMT 24 Feb 88

[Text] Kuwait, Feb 24 (KUNA)—Kuwaiti Crown Prince and Premier Shaykh Sa'd al-'Abdallah al-Sabah said tonight that the blessed popular Palestinian uprising in the West Bank and Gaza Strip is nothing but a genuine manifestation of rejecting the Israeli occupation.

Shaykh Sa'd pledged Kuwait's all out support to the Palestinian upheaval, which "deserves every support and appreciation from us."

In a televised address marking Kuwait's 27th national day, the premier said Kuwait firmly believes in supporting the Palestinian struggle until "our Palestinian brethren regain their legitimate rights."

He added that Kuwait had and would continue to work vigorously with other Arab countries to help the Lebanese people restore their national unity and re-establish peace, stability and security.

Kuwait which is the current chairman of the Organization of Islamic Conference, Shaykh Sa'd went on, would also work to boost Islamic solidarity and pursue a clear non-aligned course that steers the world away from wars and destruction.

Shaykh Sa'd expressed satisfaction over the progress of the multi-faceted integration march within the Gulf Cooperation Council.

He added that a primary objective of the GCC has always been halting the protracted Iran-Iraq war and restoring peace in the Arabian Gulf region.

The conflict, Shaykh Sa'd noted, has been a source of distress and tragedies to Arabs and Moslems alike, and distracted Iran and Iraq from confronting their real enemy.

Turning to Arab affairs, the premier committed Kuwait's full backing for Arab solidarity in line with the stated desire of the extraordinary Arab summit held in Amman last November.

Kuwait, he stressed, would continue to mobilize all its potentials in support of Arab unity and the Palestinian cause, particularly the current Palestinian revolt against the Israeli occupation, until the Palestinian people recover their national rights.

In his wide-ranging address, Shaykh Sa'd touched on the accomplishments of his 18-month old government in the fields of defense, internal security, education, planning, housing and social welfare.

He pointed out that developing a constructive and productive Kuwaiti citizen would remain the primary concern of the government.

Turning to economic affairs, Shaykh Sa'd said the critical situation in the Arabian Gulf region and the sharp decline in oil prices have combined to depress state revenues.

The premier pointed out that the state is pursuing a policy designed to diversify national income to avoid reliance on any particular source of earnings prone to market fluctuations.

But he emphasized that carefully planned government policies and measures have cushioned the effects of economic slowdown in the region.

Regarding national defense, the crown prince stressed that the government had done its best to beef up armed forces in order to confront any external aggression targetting its security and very existence.

Since taking office, Shaykh Sa'd said, Kuwait has faced circumstances fraught with challenges and grave events, but thanks to the government's policies the country managed to overcome the dangers.

In his address, Shaykh Sa'd urged Kuwaiti citizens to show more cooperation, cohesion and national unity to shield and safeguard their country.

The premier warned against malice and sedition, and pointed out that allegiance to Kuwait and dedicated work are the only measures of patriotism.

He emphasized that Kuwait's heart is radiating love, peace and friendship to all those seeking to harmoniously co-exist with it.

The premier pointed out that Kuwaiti security forces have lived up to their responsibilities in shielding the stability, security and safety of citizens.

He added that the government has availed a fair judicial system that maintains law and order, defends public freedoms and the social regime.

Shaykh Sa'd underlined the importance of ambitious, realistic and sound planning, and pointed out that the government has initiated efforts to draft the second national development plan covering the years 1990/91 through 1994/95.

The premier stressed that moulding highly trained and productive national cadres will remain the centerpiece of the government's national development plans and atop of its priorities.

He added that the state is also extremely concerned about availing comprehensive medical, social and housing services to all its citizens.

Turning to administrative reforms, the crown prince pointed out that the government has started implementing plans intended to upgrade the performance of civil servants and cut down red tape.

He urged government employees to live up to their responsibilities and show the highest degree of professional dedication, performance and integrity.

Defense Minister on Peninsula Shield Force

JN241741 Kuwait AL-ANBA' in Arabic 20 Feb 88 p 5

["Text" of interview with Defense Minister Shaykh Nawwaf al-Ahmad al-Jabir by Hisham al-Diwan—date, place not given]

[Excerpts] [Al-Diwan] How do you view the defensive positions you have visited in Faylakah and Bubiyan Islands?

[Al-Jabir] We have noted satisfactory preparations, alertness, and vigilance. We found that the morale of officers and personnel is up to the level of responsibility and that their military equipment and eagerness about preserving the dear homelands' safety and sovereignty are a source of pride. I do not want to say more than that the ministry has prepared for everything.

However, we beseech God that no bad consequences will happen; we are a peaceful country and we do not believe that the continuation of the current situation in the region serves anybody. It is a transient situation which we hope will end. We also hope that peace and security will prevail and tranquility return to the region. [passage omitted]

[Al-Diwan] In light of your field visit to the two islands' forces, is there an intention to increase the military capabilities and to acquire more weapons in accordance with the developments in the region?

[Al-Jabir] The armament programs will not stop as long as there is need for them. I would like to affirm that the care and support of his highness the amir and his highness the heir apparent and prime minister for our forces' defensive capability are unlimited. This issue enjoys their direct attention. In addition, our known policy is not to be confined to one source of armaments, and to acquire all types of modern, sophisticated weapons needed for defending our country.

As everybody knows, Kuwait is a peaceful country maintaining good relations with all countries. Consequently, it does not think of being engaged in confrontations with anyone. However, if there will be need for defending ourselves, matters will be completely different. The arms industry is witnessing quick developments. Some of these arms are useful and appropriate for countries with small populations and areas. Any country has the right to choose the weapons that it deems appropriate for it. This is what we and others do.

Therefore, it is certain that we will train the army on using effective and sophisticated weapons. This is in addition to the continuous modernization of these weapons and training our forces to all fighting techniques. Actually, states rehabilitate and train their forces and promote their defensive preparedness in both war and peace, so as not to be taken by surprise.

Currently, we are completely satisfied with the weapons available to us and with our forces' ability to use these weapons efficiently. [passage omitted]

[Al-Diwan] In light of the developments in the region and the continuation of the Gulf war and its increased dangers, is there an intention to move or expand the Peninsula Shield Force?

[Al-Jabir] First of all, I would like to affirm that the Peninsula Shield Forces have done all that is required from them thus far. Consequently, these forces constitute an acceptable and successful nucleus for a powerful Gulf army if the leaders want that, or if matters require that.

The decision to form and establish the forces does not prevent moving them from their assembly place to any other place inside the GCC states, as specified by the forces' commanders. Certainly, the main objective of the forces is defending the GCC states.

None of the GCC states has thus far requested the Peninsula Shield to defend it or to contribute toward defending it. We hope nothing will arise requiring that. However, we are confident in the forces' ability and preparedness to carry out their tasks. As for the second part of the question concerning the expansion of the forces, I believe this is linked to the need, circumstances, and developments. Any decision depends on these factions.

The Peninsula Shield Forces command is in continuous contact with the GCC chief of staff and General Secretariat. This command carries out their orders for the GCC states' safety, stability, and sovereignty. [passage omitted]

USSR's Grinevskiy Holds News Conference

JN241330 Kuwait AL-QABAS in Arabic 21 Feb 88 p 3

[By Ahmad al-Shammari]

[Text] Oleg Grinevskiy, the Soviet leadership's envoy, has reiterated that the Soviet Union is currently working to implement UN Security Council Resolution 598,

which was issued on the Iraq-Iran war. He added that his country will not oppose efforts to impose an arms embargo on Iran for its refusal to implement the resolution.

He indicated that the Soviet Union strongly supports these efforts and seeks to make the upcoming resolution more effective, because Resolution 598 should be the basis for a settlement that must end the Iraq-Iran war.

In a predeparture news conference held at the airport at noon yesterday, Grinevskiy said he conveyed a verbal message from Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev to his highness the country's amir. The message concerned efforts to resolve the Afghan conflict and the withdrawal of Soviet troops from that country according to a timetable that has been fixed by Moscow.

The Soviet official denied that his country has backed down on its proposal to form multinational UN forces to replace foreign fleets in the Arabian Gulf, with the aim of guarding international waterways and guaranteeing the entry and exit of oil tankers; this proposal is a compact and profound one. Besides, all the parties concerned will come to understand that problems can be resolved through cooperation and not through pressure. Our proposal is being put into effect since most Arab states accepted it. The proposal has been opposed only by the United States and its allies.

Grinevskiy pointed out that the new U.S. initiative on resolving the Middle East conflict and the Palestine question has brought nothing new. Furthermore, this initiative does not go beyond the autonomy plan envisaged in the Camp David accords, he added. Thus, this initiative offers nothing new on the Middle East conflict, he said. Following are details of the news confernece:

At the beginning of the news conference, AL-QABAS asked about the objectives of the visit and the content of the message which he conveyed to his highness the amir.

The Soviet envoy answered: Leader Gorbachev asked me to visit Kuwait; during the visit I conveyed a verbal message to his highness the country's amir on the Afghan conflict, in light of the emergence of situations which we consider to be good for ending this conflict within days.

These situations are characterized by the following: the national reconciliation policy being pursued by the Afghan leadership—the policy which paved the way for bringing about a peaceful settlement without any bloodshed—and finalizing a settlement based on the four Geneva agreements, signed on one hand by the Soviet Union and United States and on the other by Afghanistan and Pakistan.

Grinevskiy added that the most important provisions in these agreements are repatriation of the Afghan refugees, noninterference in internal Afghan affairs, and affirmations regarding the date for the beginning of the Soviet troop withdrawal and the period during which it will be completed. May 15 was set as the date to begin the withdrawal. Thus, we have resolved one of the most prominent regional conflicts within several days.

Then, AL-QABAS asked Grinevskiy whether any obstacles have surfaced to obstruct this solution.

He responded by saying: Yes, I say frankly that some parties have proposed that the new Afghan Government be formed prior to the beginning of the Soviet troop withdrawal, and these parties want to perform the task of forming this Afghan government.

This proposal is illogical and unnatural because the Soviet troop withdrawal from Afghanistan is sought to enable this state to form its government and delineate its policies, as well as forthcoming developments in the state. This is the logical thing.

However, this unexpected request to form a new government will obstruct the march toward a settlement. Hence, the parties that made this request will be held entirely responsible before their peoples.

The Soviet official added: We believe there is still a propitious opportunity to resolve the Afghan conflict, which will help extinguish the hotbeds of tension in Asia, the Middle East, and Latin America.

Furthermore, finding a solution to this conflict will help resolve other conflicts. We discussed this issue with his highness the country's amir and also with President Saddam Husayn during my recent visit to Iraq. In addition, during their visits to many of the region's states Soviet envoys discussed the issues that are of common interest to us and to these states, especially the Middle East conflict and the Iraq-Iran war.

In reply to a question on the Soviet initiative to resolve the Middle East conflict, the Soviet envoy said:

We propose that the international peace conference be convened as soon as possible. We are using all of our available capabilities, including holding consultations with the UN Security Council's permanent members, in order to achieve this objective.

The international conference is the best and quickest way to achieve peace; such a conference would give all participating parties the chance to voice their views and ask that these views be taken into consideration. Also, responses to the proposals submitted would be made in the most suitable manner.

At the end of the news conference, the Soviet envoy answered a question posed by AL-QABAS on the ability of the current Afghan regime of Najibullah to surivive after the Soviet withdrawal. He said:

We know the situation in Afghanistan very well. During the past years, great changes that sought to bring about a national reconciliation and revive hopes regarding the possibility of concluding a peaceful settlement were witnessed.

I would like to note that the Afghan Government offered the opposition forces many things, including allowing them to choose the vice president, the prime minister, and 29 other key posts. These offers were made within the framework of the basics envisaged for the formation fo a future coalition government.

Regrettably, however, Pakistan interferred and requested that a government, deemed necessary in its opinion, be formed, despite the fact that such a thing only concerns the Afghans.

Upon his departure yesterday, the Soviet envoy was seen off by Foreign Ministry Under Secretary Sulayman Majid al-Shahin and the Soviet ambassador to Kuwait.

Oman

Joint Statement on Taleb Ibrahimi Visit Issued

JN241631 Muscat Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 24 Feb 88

[Joint press statement with Algeria issued in Muscat following the visit by Algerian Foreign Minister Taleb Ibrahimi—date not given]

[Text] Dr Ahmed Taleb Ibrahimi, member of the Political Bureau and foreign minister of the Democratic and Popular Republic of Algeria, paid an official visit to the Sultanate of Oman from 3-6 Rajab 1408 Hegira, corresponding to 21-24 February 1988.

Ibrahimi's visit was for the purpose of promoting fraternal relations between the Sultanate of Oman and the Democratic and Popular Republic of Algeria. It affirms the countries' joint willingness to develop and strengthen their bilateral cooperation to the highest level, in accordance with the political will of both His Majesty Sultan Qabus ibn Sa'id and His Excellency President Chadli Bendjedid. This cooperation would realize the ambitions of the two brotherly peoples for progress and prosperity.

The visit was made at the invitation of Yusuf ibn al-'Alawi 'Abdallah, minister of state for foreign affairs in the Sultanate of Oman.

During the visit, he had the honor to meet His Majesty Sultan Qabus and convey to him a message from his brother Chadli Bendjedid. The message contained feelings of cordiality and appreciation for his majesty and sincere hopes for further progress and prosperity for the brotherly people of Oman.

His Majesty Sultan Qabus conveyed through Dr Ahmad Taleb Ibrahim his majesty's greetings and appreciation for His Excellency President Chadli Bendjedid and his wishes for more progress and prosperity for the Algerian people.

Dr Ahmed Taleb Ibrahim also exchanged views with His Excellency Qays 'Abd al-Mun'im al-Zawawi, deputy prime minister for financial and economic affairs on the international economic situation in general. They discussed aspects of economic and financial cooperation between the two brotherly countries.

His Excellency Yusuf ibn al-'Alawi 'Abdallah, minister of state for foreign affairs, held official talks with Dr Ahmed Taleb Ibrahimi, member of the Political Bureau and foreign minister of the Democratic and Popular Republic of Algeria.

The talks dealt with promoting bilateral relations between the two brotherly countries. They expressed their satisfaction at the level of these relations, and agreed on the formation of a joint comittee to look into prospects of bilateral cooperation. They also agreed to look into the exchange of consultation and coordination between officials in both foreign ministries, in addition to the exchange of other delegations.

The Omani-Algerian talks also covered all issues of mutual concern. The two sides expressed satisfaction that their views regarding these issues were identical.

They also reviewed the current situation in the occupied Arab territories. They highly praised the heroic uprising of the Palestinian people in the occupied Arab territories, which demands support and solidarity. They expressed their belief that a just and lasting peace in the Middle East can only be achieved on the basis of the recognition of the inalienable national rights of the Palestinian people to a return, self-determination, and the establishment of their independent state on their soil.

The means of settling this dispute lies in the convening of a responsible international conference under the auspices of the United Nations, with the participation of Security Council permanent member states and all concerned parties, including the PLO, the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people.

Regarding the Iraq-Iran war, the two sides expressed their deep regret and concern over the war which is dragging on between two neighboring Muslim countries, and their worry over the development and continuation of this dispute which threatens not only the stability and security of the whole region, but also world security and peace.

Both sides are of the view that efforts should center on the implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 598, and on looking into new means that would give the UN secretary general the opportunity to continue his

efforts to end the war in a way that guarantees the legitimate rights of both sides, in accordance with international laws and conventions.

They also reviewed the steps achieved by the process of cooperation and integration in the framework of the Arab Maghreb. They expressed satisfaction at the political consultations aimed at establishing the Arab Maghreb, and support for all efforts and endeavors, including those of the UN and OAU, aimed at ending the conflict in the Western Sahara by peaceful means.

Dr Ahmed Taleb Ibrahimi, member of the Political Bureau and foreign minister of the Democratic and Popular Republic of Algeria, was briefed on the stages reached by the GCC. He praised the role of the GCC in all Arab, Islamic, and international levels, including its efforts to reduce tension in the region.

Dr Ibrahimi and his accompanying delegation expressed their gratitude and appreciation for His Excellency Yusuf ibn al-'Alawi 'Abdallah, minister of state for foreign affairs, for the warm reception and hospitality accorded to them during their stay in the Sultanate of Oman.

PDRY

Soviet Foreign Ministry Official Arrives

EA251028 Aden ANA in English 1645 GMT 24 Feb 88

[Text] Aden, 24 Feb—Comrade Beryaskin [name as received], dean of the diplomatic academy of the Soviet Foreign Ministry arrived in Aden today on a several days visit.

He stated to ANA that he will meet officials in the Foreign Ministry of the PDRY to discuss issues of cooperation and extending necessary aid for the diplomatic cadres. He indicated that there is an agreement between the Yemeni and Soviet Foreign Ministries to exchange opinions on (?several) issues.

He was received upon arrival by Comrade 'Umar al-Huraybi, director of the Department of Socialist Europe and the Soviet Union in the Foreign Ministry, and a number of officials at the ministry.

Briefs

IDB Loan Granted

Riyadh, 23/2/1988—An agreement with the Islamic Development Bank [IDB] will provide a loan of 5.2 million Islamic dinars, around $7 million, to the PDRY. The agreement, to be paid back over 20 years with a 5-year grace period, was signed this morning at the headquarters of the IDB in Jeddah. This money will contribute to the building of a road to link Lawdar and (Minhaqah Makiras), around 40 km in length. The agreement was signed on behalf of the PDRY by the minister of installations and housing, 'Abd al-Qawi Muthanna Hadi, and by Dr Ahmad Muhammad 'Ali on behalf of the IDB. With the signing of this agreement, the total funding by the IDB to the PDRY since the beginning of the current year of 1408 has reached $17 million. [Text] [*Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1626 GMT 23 Feb 88 LD*]

Saudi Arabia

King Fahd Addresses Desert Shield Forces

LD242250 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 2105 GMT 24 Feb 88

[Speech by King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz Al Sa'ud, addressing the officers and soldiers of the Desert Shield Forces during an inspection tour of King Khalid military town on 23 February]

[Text] Hafr al-Batin, 24 Feb (SPA)—There is no doubt that what is happening now among the six member-countries of the GCC is a great symbol of the harmony, amity, and absolute trust among the member countries. Therefore, it is fortunate that these six should come together on the basis of principles dear to these states. This amity stems from the heart, not from matters of routine. There is no doubt that they have been an inspiration to the Arab nation, the Islamic nation, and the East and West.

The Gulf countries are in full solidarity within the boundaries of their common interests. The exchange of forces every now and then is in fact very important, because the relations among the Gulf armies naturally give a harmonious impression, they get to know each other, and they create a Gulf force that is not against anyone. It does not want to be against anyone. It prepares for any attempt by anyone, God forbid, to commit aggression against it. Military preparation is required for self-defense.

It is well known that the fundamental base, on which the leaders of the GCC countries established their first understanding, and from which numerous issues, civilian and military, stemmed, is in the mutual interest of these six countries. This base is not at all directed against anyone. This alliance is for mutual interests.

Fortunately, the leaders of the Gulf countries established their bases and foundations starting from the very wide base of mutual interests, civilian and military.

I think that this is a firm foundation. All the discussions, which take place in the GCC conference sessions in any Gulf country, concern issues of mutual interest that can be applied or implemented.

None of the leaders of the Gulf countries holds a view that differs from the views of another leader, nor do any of the Gulf people, because their interest is mutual.

The criteria are never in numbers, but in the intentions of each one toward the others. This theory, in the eighth year of the Gulf alliance, has proved many things and become an example for all the countries coming closer to each other. It has proved that it considers, before anything, the national interests and the interests of the popular base.

What are the things about which there might be a kind of alliance among the Gulf peoples?

Always in the sessions, which are held annually on a regular basis in any Gulf country, the experts look for the points on which there might be agreement. This is the aim of the meetings held by the Gulf officials whether they are defense ministers, finance ministers, education ministers, or municipalities ministers.

Naturally, as we know, every country in the world has some personal issues that should be considered and respected.

What has been achieved in the GCC countries in the past 8 years is enormous. Why was it achieved with such speed, such insistence, and without disturbance? Because it stems from the heart.

The leaders of concerned ministers of the Gulf countries study the things that could be achieved, and those that have not been achieved this year could be achieved next year. This is because it is well known that the unity for which the Gulf countries aspire is the unity of hearts, amicability, and mutual interests.

According to my information and knowledge of what happens at the permanent committees, everyone, without exception, thinks about how to accurately consider the interests of the peoples of the GCC countries equally.

In the nature of things the interest of the Gulf citizen might lie in, for example, a participation in a factory by the Gulf states. And here I mean not only the governments but also the peoples of the Gulf.

When ties rise from great and broad bases they are those that link the nations more than any for propaganda purposes. But, thanks be to God, in our Gulf accord we have reached the state in which the great bases of citizens in our Gulf states can meet for their common good.

In the nature of things, economic aspects are those that link the nations.

It is well known today that the base from which the military system arises is not numerical but the standard of the officer or of the soldier and of the equipment which he might use when he needs to use it in self-defence, or in defense of the faith and the homeland.

It is common knowledge that the infantry had a role to play. But the armies today are now transported. Their numbers are not as important as their training and organization and the type of weapons they have. Therefore the international military system today depends on these things more than it depends on the number.

Today we see and hear about intercontinental missiles that travel thousands of kilometers. Yet in the past one used to depend on the numerical strength of the infantry. Today one depends militarily on the quality of training and the type of weapons used.

The military systems in our Gulf states are not intended for aggression; they are intended for the defense of our homelands if anyone tries to attack us.

We want nothing except peace and stability to prevail in our Gulf for several reasons. The most important of these is that some of our homelands were colonized by foreigners who had always thought about their own interests and not the interests of the citizens. Now however, thanks be to God, our Gulf countries have become fully independent.

This integral independence needs building, and primarily economic construction and organization, which depend on the way the economy is built and on the modern methods used by the world in order to benefit from them.

It is perhaps fortunate that we begin where those who preceded us by hundreds of years left off. We do not begin where they began, as there is nothing now in the industrial world that remains unknown. It is now possible to know how to develop our countries economically, since states always rely on economic aspects to a great extent, and how to develop our military and civilian sectors to a very high level. Then you find that the citizen, whether in military, security, or civilian work, works in the interest of his country and his own interest.

The freedom of the individual exists in our Gulf countries, thank God. Also the individual in the Gulf has at his disposal capabilities that are not available in many countries. Foremost of these is the freedom to do all in a way that satisfies him within the boundaries of the regulations and the confines of the Islamic Shari'a.

It is known that the Islamic Shari'a was granted by God in order to organize matters that are not confined to the Arabs, because the Islamic Shari'a is for the whole world. Therefore, we find Muslims in Islamic history who distinguished themselves in science, medicine or industry who are not Arabs. We find people from Persian, African, and Asian origin, in addition to the Arabs, naturally. Perhaps this is what distinguishes the Islamic faith.

The purpose of the Gulf getting together is not to commit aggression against anyone. It has many aspects, the most important of which is the military aspect.

If we, the Gulf people, have military capabilities in line with our capacity and absorption capability, then we will prevent anyone from being tempted to harm us in our Arab Gulf, or commit aggression against us. We will at least have the capability to deter the aggressor.

We hope that there will be no aggressor, but it has been proven now that people no longer respect anything but force. Thank you.

Establishment of Ties With USSR 'Expected'

JN241045 Paris AL-MUSTAQBAL in Arabic 20 Feb 88 p 7

[Unattributed report from the "AL-MUSTAQBAL News" feature]

[Text] Arab sources in the Lebanese capital have said that Saudi Arabia and the USSR are expected to establish diplomatic relations following the completion of the Soviet forces' withdrawal from Afghanistan.

The sources stressed that Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal's visit to the USSR was to prepare for this decision and that this visit would not have taken place had there not been a definite Soviet decision to withdraw troops from Afghanistan and end the Afghan crisis.

United Arab Emirates

Morocco's Filali Meets Officials, Holds Talks

Talks With 'Abdallah

JN241041 Abu Dhabi Domestic Service in Arabic 0930 GMT 24 Feb 88

[Text] Rashid 'Abdallah, minister of state for foreign affairs, received Dr Abdellatif Filali, Moroccan minister of foreign affairs and cooperation, at his office this morning.

Following the meeting, Dr Filali said that they reviewed the situation in the Arab arena, especially in the Arabian Gulf. He added that they also discussed relations between the two countries within the framework of the joint committee which will end its work today. In this regard, Filali praised the positive results of the committee meetings.

Statement Issued 24 Feb

JN241805 Manama WAKH in English 1550 GMT 24 Feb 88

[Text] Abu Dhabi, Feb 24 (QNA)—The United Arab Emirates and Morocco today called for an end to the Iraq-Iran war and expressed support to all efforts, including U.N. Security Council Resolution 598, aimed at halting the conflict.

A statement at the end of a meeting betwen UAE Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Rashid 'Abdallah and Moroccan Foreign Minister Dr. Abdellatif Filali also called for holding an international peace conference on the Middle East.

"The international conference is the right formula for a just and comprehensive peace settlement that would ensure Palestinian right of establishing their independent state on their national soil under the leadership of the PLO." The statement said.

The two ministers also had talks on economic cooperation at the meeting of the joint UAE-Moroccan committee.

Joint investment projects, including a fertilisers plant, a tourist complex in Morocco, were also discussed and the UAE thanked King Hassan II for alloting a land plot for that purpose.

A final decision on the tourism project is expected early next month.

The two sides agreed to continue discussions on setting up a joint trade firm by the private sectors in both countries and to set up a permanent trade centre for Moroccan products in the country.

The two sides said they were also studying the fesibility of initiating a sealine between the two countries.

The two sides decided to hold a joint seminar between businessmen from both countries to discuss circumstances and incentives for investment in Morocco and evaluate the UAE Moroccan company for development in Morocco.

The Moroccan side thanked UAE for its efforts to back its economy and finance economic projects in Morocco.

The two sides also agreed to exchange experiences and visits in regards to education and provide opportunities for training at vocational and scientific institutes in both countries.

The Moroccan side also expressed appreciation to the initial UAE approval to the cooperation agreement in the field of agriculture as well as its readiness to provide technical administrative experience in this field to meet the demands of the UAE.

Meets With Heir Apparent

LD241850 Rabat Domestic Service in Arabic
1600 GMT 24 Feb 88

[Text] Abdellatif Filali, minister of foreign affairs and cooperation, met in Abu Dhabi this afternoon with Shaykh Khalifah ibn Zayid, heir apparent of Abu Dhabi and deputy supreme commander of the Armed Forces of the UAE.

During this meeting, which was attended by Rashid 'Abdallah, UAE minister of state for foreign affairs, developments in the Gulf and in the Arab situation in general were reviewed in light of the Palestinian uprising. Other issues of mutual interest were also discussed.

Yemen Arab Republic

Jordan's Al-Masri Makes Statement, Departs

JN241416 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic
1200 GMT 24 Feb 88

[Text] Brother Tahir al-Masri, foreign minister of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, left Sanaa this morning at the end of a 3-day visit to our country. During this visit he delivered a message to Brother Colonel 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, president of the Republic, commander in chief of the Armed Forces, and secretary general of the General People's Congress, from his brother King Husayn ibn Talal of Jordan.

The message dealt with the situation in the region and the political moves therein. Al-Masri also headed the Jordanian side in the meetings of the joint Jordan-YAR committee for economic and technical cooperation.

In a statement to SABA', Brother Tahir al-Masri said the meetings of the committee provided a good opportunity to assert joint cooperation between the two countries in all fields. They reflected both peoples' desire for promoting bilateral cooperation, he said.

He pointed out that he discussed bilateral relations between the two brotherly countries with Brother 'Abd al-'Aziz 'Abd al-Ghani, prime minister and Standing Committee member.

Concluding his statement, he praised the understanding, cooperation, and hospitality which he and the delegation accompanying him had seen during the visit.

He was seen off by Brother Dr 'Abd al-Karim al-Iryani, deputy prime minister, foreign minister, and Standing Committee member; Brother 'Abd al-Rahaman Shuja', deputy director of protocol in the Foreign Ministry; a number of officials at the Foreign Ministry; and Brother Sa'd al-Batayinah, Jordan's ambassador in Sanaa.

Djibouti President Leaves Baghdad After Visit

JN241533 Baghdad INA in Arabic
1403 GMT 24 Feb 88

[Text] Baghdad, 24 Feb (INA)—Djibouti President Hassan Gouled left Baghdad today after a 2-day official visit to the country. His excellency was accorded an offiical sendoff. President Saddam Husayn headed those seeing the guest off.

President Saddam Husayn accompanied his guest Djibouti President Gouled before his depature on a tour of Baghdad during which the guest president was acquainted with Baghdad's cultural sites.

Saddam Husayn Holds Talks With UK's Mellor

JN250719 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic
2000 GMT 24 Feb 88

[Text] The president leader Saddam Husayn today received David Mellor, Britain's minister of state at the Foreign and Commonwealth Office and special envoy of British Prime Minister Mrs Margaret Thatcher to the president.

Mellor conveyed a written message from British Prime Mrs Margaret Thatcher to the president on relations between Iraq and Britain and the desire to develop these relations, the situation in the area, the Iraqi-Iranian war, and Security Council efforts to achieve peace in accordance with Resolution 598.

They discussed all aspects of the situation in the area and current efforts at the Security Council to adopt a resolution to complement Resolution 598, now that Iran's rejection of the international community's will for achieving peace has been proved. They also discussed the Palestinian Arab people's uprising in the occupied Arab territory.

The president leader asked the British minister to convey his greetings to Mrs Thatcher and Iraq's desire to develop the relations of friendship and cooperation with Britain on the basis of mutual respect and joint action to strengthen security, peace, and stability in the region.

The president expressed Iraq's appreciation of Britain's efforts at the Security Council to strengthen the international will for achieving peace on the basis of Resolution 598 and the UN Charter.

Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister and foreign minister; the president's secretary; the British ambassador in Baghdad; Rob Young, head of the Middle East desk at the British Foreign and Commonwealth Office; and the Iraqi ambassador in London attended the meeting.

Ramadan Receives British Parliamentary Team

JN241813 Baghdad INA in English 1540 GMT
24 Feb 88

[Text] Baghdad, Feb. 24, INA—Member of the Revolution Command Council and Iraq's First Deputy Prime Minister Taha Yasin Ramadan has reiterated the preparedness of the people of Iraq under the leadership of President Saddam Husayn to defend their homeland against the Iranian aggression.

Receiving a British parliamentary delegation here today, Mr. Ramadan expounded the objectives of the expanionist and aggressvie policies pursued by the Iranian regime and their grave impact on security stability and peace in the region and the world as well.

He also pointed out to the continued Iranian rejection of international peace efforts and its insistence on carrying on war in an attempt to attain [words indistinct].

Mr. Ramadan also underlined the importance of expanding ties between Iraq and Britain for their own interests.

For their part, members of the British delegation appreciated Iraq's peaceful stands and its responsive resolutions calling for an end to the war.

Reportage on Gulf War Combat Activities

Communique No 3,032

JN241715 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic
1700 GMT 24 Feb 88

[Communique No 3,032 issued by the Armed Forces General Command on 24 February]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. In defense of great Iraq and the principles of its glorious revolution, the people's victorious forces continue to deal painful blows to the despotic Khomeyniite clique, which insists on its arrogance and rejection of peace appeals. The following are our forces' activities for last night and today:

1. Our valiant units in the I Army Corps northern sector killed 12 enemy personnel and injured others. They also destroyed five various positions, one post, one vehicle, and one bulldozer. They also blew up an ammunition dump.

2. Four infantry positions were destroyed in the Special I Army Corps sector—the Allahu Akbar Forces.

3. Two enemy personnel were killed and two infantry positions, two posts, and one 106-mm gun emplacement were destroyed in the II Army Corps central sector.

4. Three of the scoundrels were killed in the III Army Corps sector east of Al-Basrah.

5. One large vehicle was destroyed in the VI Army Corps sector east of the Tigris.

6. Five of the aggressors were killed and one SPG-9 gun was destroyed and all its personnel killed in the VII Army Corps sector.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 24 February 1988

Attack in North Denied

JN251030 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0957 GMT 25 Feb 88

[Text] Baghdad, 25 Feb (INA)—An Iraqi military spokesman has denied Iranian claims about an offensive by Iranian forces in the Sankaw [name as received] area in the Governorate of Al-Sulaymaniyah in northern Iraq.

In a statement to INA at noon today, the spokesman said Sankaw is a village in the Governorate of Al-Sulaymaniyah and not in Kirkuk and is more than 70 km away from the international border. He said Sankaw is too far for the Iranians to reach due to geographic and logical reasons related to the Iraqi capability on the international border in this area.

The military spokesman added that the Iranian claims about killing hundreds is a new lie, which is added to the series of their unrealistic lies. Both public opinion and self-respecting news media are used to paying no attention to such unbelievable lies, which point to the Iranians' practical failure and to resorting to cheap lies.

Soviets Interested in 'Negotiating' Spy Swap

TA251251 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew
25 Feb 88 pp A1, 2

[Report from New York by Ran Dagoni]

[Text] The Soviet Union has recently begun to signal to Israel its desire to launch negotiations on the release of a Soviet spy who was caught in Israel several years ago. Israel has denied that it is holding a Soviet spy. The above appears in YISRA'EL SHELANU [OUR ISRAEL], published in New York.

According to the newspaper, the story involves one Professor Klinkberg [name as published], a Jew who immigrated to Israel in 1948 and who for 15 years held a sensitive job in the development of chemical and biological warfare materiel at one of Israel's most famous research institutes. The newspaper gives no source for the report.

GDR attorney Wolfgang Fogel, who specializes in East-West spy swaps, has recently invited Rabbi Roni Greenwald of New York to meet with him in East Berlin to take action toward securing Klinkberg's release. He claimed that Greenwald had previously been involved in several deals involving political prisoner swaps.

According to the paper, Fogel offered Greenwald "a high price" for Professor Klinkberg. Several offers were raised in the course of the Fogel-Greenwald meetings. One of them mentioned Shabtay Kalmanovich in this context. Fogel suggested that in exchange for the release of Kalmanovich, following his conviction, and of Professor Klinkberg, the Soviet Union would be ready to release people the United States and Israel would like to see freed.

In an interview with the newspaper, Rabbi Greenwald did not deny the report, but pointed out that there are no convicted U.S. spies in the Soviet Union, although there may be some others Israel and the United States would like to see released for reasons known to them alone.

Rabbi Greenwald said that the NEWSWEEK report on a spy swap involving Pollard and Kalmanovich is inaccurate. "You cannot discuss a spy like Kalmanovich, who has not yet been convicted," said Greenwald, according to YISRA'EL SHELANU.

USSR 'Planning' To Renew Diplomatic Relations

TA211946 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew
1900 GMT 21 Feb 88

[Text] The Soviet Union is planning to improve its relations with Israel, including the renewal of diplomatic relations between the two countries.

This was disclosed by the Romanian ambassador in Italy to a senior Italian diplomat. Our political correspondent says that this report reached the Foreign Ministry today from the Israeli Embassy in Italy.

Peres Explains Involvement in Pipeline Affair

TA251355 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew
25 Feb 88 pp 1, 6

[Report by Dan Margalit]

[Text] After a delay of several days, an odd delay perhaps, the vice prime minister and foreign minister yesterday agreed to give HA'ARETZ a detailed picture on the affair of the Iraqi-Jordanian pipeline that was never laid. A few weeks ago the affair attracted little attention when the Labor Party belittled it and dismissed outright the claim that the party was going to receive bribes in return for its leaders' consent to guarantee that the pipeline would be left intact.

The affair had almost been forgotten, but in the United States the day before yesterday a batch of documents on the subject was publicized, including a letter the then Prime Minister Shim'on Peres wrote to U.S. Attorney General Edwin Meese, who is being interrogated about the affair.

The letter triggers several question marks. Why, for instance, did Peres rush to send such a letter in his own handwriting and on a letterhead printed in Hebrew? Why did he ask for it to be returned, and who knew about it?

The above seems more dramatic in light of the facts as described by Peres in a talk with me last night:

"Bruce Rappaport was at my house. He told me about the affair which I had known of earlier, just as the previous government, such as Menahem Begin's, had known of and supported it. Rappaport was going to travel to the United States the next day and I was going to leave for the United States 2 weeks later. It was clear that the issue had strategic value and that secrecy had to be maintained due to Jordan's and Iraq's involvement.

The letter was supposed to tell Meese that when I was to visit the United States it would be desirable for me to discuss the project with George Shultz. As I said, since Rappaport was going to travel, I had to hand him the letter to Meese at my house and in my handwriting, and there is no basis to the rumor that I asked for it back. Nobody should have known about it, either. The formulation of the formal letter sent to the United States was read and approved by Yitzhaq Shamir, Yitzhaq Rabin, and Gad Ya'aqobi."

Peres' letter to Meese also raised a question as to the "full story," as it was put, which was to have been related to Meese by Rappaport and Attorney Bob Wallach. According to Peres, the "full story" referred to the strategic interest Israel has in the entire project and to the approval of all the governments concerned, which he did not want to mention in writing due to the secret involvement of Iraq and Jordan.

Money was not mentioned at all. (Peres also totally denied the claim about funds to be given to the Labor Party). If money was mentioned at all, it must have been one of the Americans involved in the project who observed that if the pipeline were to be laid, Israel would be able to get oil at reduced prices.

Also remaining is the problem of personal acquaintance. Peres first claimed that he did not know Attorney Bob Wallach who composed the internal memoranda which entangle the Labor Party, and who is now being interrogated and tried in the United States. In contrast, in the letter to Meese, the then prime minister terms Wallach as his friend.

Peres explained: "I did not say I did not know him. At that point I did not know at all that he was an attorney. He was the U.S. representative to the UN Human Rights Commission who also dealt with matters involving Soviet Jewry, so that there was nothing in his name or position that should have caused me to have reservations about him." In the United States acquaintances are relatively easily termed friends.

More on Shultz Visit, U.S. Peace Initiative

Peres Interviewed 25 Feb

TA250653 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0505 GMT 25 Feb 88

[Interview with Shim'on Peres, vice prime minister and foreign minister, by political correspondent 'Oded Ben-'Ami and anchorman Arye Golan—live]

[Text] [Golan] Mr Shim'on Peres is our guest this morning. Good morning, Sir.

[Peres] Good morning.

[Golan] Even before departing for our region, U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz has been making great efforts to tone down the expectations from the talks he will hold here. Do you share the pessimistic approach toward his chances for success?

[Peres] I think it is unwise to entertain high hopes. At the same time, it is similarly unwise to ignore the need to extricate ourselves from the current situation. I believe that without a peace process, the situation will worsen rather than improve. That is why I think we should all make a supreme effort to resume the peace process and conduct it properly.

[Golan] Do you believe there is really a chance for a political breakthrough during Shultz' upcoming shuttle tour?

[Peres] The very attempt to make a breakthrough is already the first step toward a real breakthrough. After all, what is the alternative: To paralyze everything? To state that there is no hurry? To declare that we have an autonomy program to which we have no partners? We, too, must ask ourselves some questions.

Look, when you deal in politics you discuss everything according to feasible alternatives. What are our two alternatives? One entails total paralysis. Even declaring that we should wait until the riots are quelled is meaningless, because no one has a target date and can tell you specifically when the disturbances will end.

Israel must ask itself—not the Arabs or the Americans—what it wants: a peace process or a freeze process. Of the two alternatives, there is no question that a peace process is the desirable one.

[Ben-'Ami] Mr Peres, when Israel tried to ask itself that question—yesterday, for example, during the Inner Cabinet session—it turned out that the disparity between the Likud and Alignment blocs precludes any possibility of providing one unified Israeli answer.

[Peres] That is true, but it also held true in other instances, such as the withdrawal of our forces from Lebanon, for example. It was also the case with regard to Tabah and the settlements in Judaea and Samaria. It is not as if I am saying that all these cases are identical, as in the instance we are dealing with the most serious and deepest question facing us all. Yet to give up hope and engage only in verbal artillery volleys will definitely not be enough and will furthermore be pointless.

[Golan] Mr Peres, you are involved in a very serious political argument with Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir and with the Likud. But if we take a broader look at the situation, we can see that your problem extends beyond Mr Shamir:

The Soviet Union remains a problem, as it still advocates an international conference with coercive powers, not merely the fig leaf of an international event.

King Husayn is not participating in this game at all at the moment, and is not even in our region. Therefore he will actually be unable to meet with Secretary Shultz. Such problems also exist. Perhaps you could expound on them.

[Peres] Certainly. You may think that your analysis of the Soviet position is correct. I, for one, do not yet know whether it is. But suppose it is accurate, let me ask you this: What is preferable: a joint U.S.-Israeli-Arab front vis-a-vis the Soviet Union, or despair? I would even prefer a dispute with the Soviet Union over the powers and nature of the international conference to finding ourselves in a rejectionist front.

After all, what is Israel's problem? The problem is that it cannot be the sole contractor for peace, but it must continue to show its desire for peace. We must constantly show that

we are indeed the initiators. I would prefer an argument with the Soviet Union over the peace process to having it accuse us of running away from the peace process.

[Golan] What about the Jordanian option that has been circulated in Europe recently?

[Peres] Look, we are a very impatient nation. Husayn saw Philip Habib and gave him the go-ahead. I know that the Jordanians have, shall we say, their very deep doubts about the U.S. position. You may argue: Well, if that is the case, what alternative are you looking for? After all, we are not dealing here with mere sensationalism.

Do you want the PLO? We have two, or rather three, alternatives: The third is that we sit back and do nothing but squabble and try to calm the situation in the territories down. I maintain that this state of affairs hurts Israel the most. It erodes our standing. Where are we being led by the views that profess that there is no rush and that advocate adherence to the prevailing status quo, contending that the whole world is against us, and running away from our problems?

Negotiations can be held with the PLO without an international conference, or with Jordan at an international conference. To the best of my knowledge, Husayn and Jordan have not changed their position regarding their agreement to an international conference that would not have coercive powers. You may want to read Jordanian Prime Minister Zayd al-Rifa'i's comments on the matter. It should be a conference devoid of coercive powers, one that would not be allowed to impose a veto, one that would lead to direct negotiations between us and the Jordanians.

Look, we, too, should make some sort of effort. We are not about to serve the Jordanians' interests. The peace process serves Israel's interests, while the reverse serves Israel's enemies. The process of adding 1.5 million Arabs works against Israel.

Preserving a Jewish majority in Israel works in Israel's favor. We must provide a clear definition of exactly what issues Israel is faced with and what the Jewish answers to these questions are. We must not run away or bury our heads in the sand.

[Ben-'Ami] Mr Peres, you seem to be very sure of your positions and firm in presenting them. The feeling is, however, that Mr Shamir has similar confidence in the strength of his arguments. Do you not fear—maybe you even prefer—that the failure of Shultz' visit might lead to early elections? Perhaps, in fact, it might be preferable to say as much now, before we are portrayed as naysayers in the United States?

[Peres] Look, I suggested calling early elections and holding them at a date suitable and fair to all the parties. Here, too, one must be careful not to do something that is unfair, such as proposing July or August simply because they appear to be inauspicious for a certain bloc in the Knesset. I am definitely in favor of early elections. At the same time, I do not believe that the election issue is the sole important matter. As far as I am concerned, the resumption of the peace process is independent of early elections.

Even if elections are held, it would be desirable to hold them while a peace process is under way. After all, the problem is more of a national character than a partisan affair. And just as prior to its own election campaign the United States can show a genuinely serious involvement in a complicated political process, by the same token we should be doubly active in that direction, as it affects our lives and our future.

[Ben-'Ami] Mr Peres, do you personally regard the launching of this initiative—in the form of Shultz' arrival and the beginning of his shuttle tour between the various capitals, in other words the beginning of the process—as the peak of your personal political activity, the highlight of your 3-year activity to promote such a conference or such a process?

[Peres] You asked a good question, and I am honored to have the opportunity to answer it. People say that nothing has come of my political initiatives. Well, my questions are: Is the IDF in or out of Lebanon? Do we regret this? Has a change taken place in the territories or not? Does Egypt have an ambassador in Tel Aviv or not? Even with respect to the peace arrangements, I believe even some Likud members will eventually regret having rejected an international opening to direct and unconditional negotiations.

Instead, we will now have to contend not only with an international conference, but with a phased plan or an interim program or a temporary plan—the name is immaterial—and with a permanent plan. Incidentally, the permanent plan—the Reagan plan—was conceived during the Likud's term, in 1982. Let them not tell you some cock-and-bull story about it being was conceived because of our current activity.

This plan was never killed. It remained the U.S. position, and has now been tabled again. I must ask our people out loud what would be better: an international opening to be followed within 1 or 2 days by direct negotiations in which Israel's hands would not be tied behind its back, or a far more complex apparatus which includes an international event and negotiations over an interim arrangement that are linked to negotiations over a permanent arrangement?

The argument is not between Mr Shamir and myself or between the prime minister and the foreign minister. This would be a misrepresentation of the situation. I am not subordinate to Shamir, nor is he subordinate to me. We are both bound to an Inner Cabinet consisting of two equal parts whose views differ. But this was no secret even before the Cabinet decision. [not further specified] So let the Likud not try to create the impression that it can ideologically bend the Labor Party to accept its views, just as the Labor

Party will be unable to bend the the Likud ideologically. The argument is not between men, it is over the structure aimed at serving as the shock absorber for this dispute, providing the means to tackle it.

I think that the best thing from the national standpoint—and I reiterate this not merely for the sake of polemics—would be for Mr Shamir and myself to have met jointly with Mr Shultz, once he is here, to hear his views together. After all, he will not tell us two separate stories even if we hold two meetings. We must maintain a dignified national appearance. We should then have summoned the Inner Cabinet, even for an argument which could have resulted in differing views, and then the opening of this move would have been different.

Now Mr Shamir is saying: How can I conduct negotiations if Mr Peres is already conceding things? What is it that Mr Peres is giving up? Is Shamir not familiar with the Labor Party's views? Does he not know that the Labor Party does not want to annex 1.5 million Arabs, which it believes would be catastrophic for the future of Israel? What he regards as a concession is to us a precondition for the existence of the state. This is what the argument is all about.

[Golan] Yes, but these differences of opinion are, after all, common knowledge. Thank you very much, Vice Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres. I also want to thank you, our political correspondent 'Oded Ben-'Ami.

Peres on 'Gaza First' Idea

TA211750 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 21 Feb 88 p 2

[Report by political correspondent Hayim Shibi]

[Excerpt] "If the Shultz plan fails, Soviet influence in the Middle East will strengthen for 2 years until the next U.S. Administration is able to have an impact in the region," Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres told YEDI'OT AHARONOT.

Peres: "What makes people think that the next administration in Washington will be more friendly toward Israel than that of Reagan and Shultz? This is totally unfounded. On the contrary, it is to our benefit to go along with the present administration."

Referring to the Likud's arguments that Yitzhaq Shamir will find it difficult to coordinate fully with him on the talks he will conduct with Shultz this week because Peres "has already revealed all the cards and has given up almost everything," the foreign minister said:

"This is a primitive argument that is meant to throw dust in one's eyes. Does Mr Shultz have to come to Israel to learn the position of the Alignment and that of the Likud? Let them stop telling the story that they are starting out with 'no' but will later say 'yes.'"

Peres believes that the Likud's 'no' is the beginning, the middle, and the end. The Likud is not playing any games. They are really and truly saying no. This is their ideology.

Commenting on the influence of Shultz' upcoming visit on riots in the territories, Peres said: "I do not know whether Shultz' mission will prevent or intensify the riots, but it is clear to me that riots without a peace process is a very tough matter for the state of Israel. I cannot guarantee that the peace process will prevent riots, but it will balance the picture."

Referring to the notion of "Gaza first," Peres noted: "They think I am giving up, whereas I think I am achieving something. For me, to give up on the 650,000 inhabitants of Gaza is an accomplishment, and so is preventing the Jewish majority in the country from being jeopardized. What do they want? That we should look at the territories as if they were scorched earth and refuse to look at the population? For me, the attainment of peace is not a concession, but an accomplishment."

Alluding to 'Ezer Weizman's proposal "to tone down the PLO" and make it a partner in peace talks, the foreign minister said: "Those who today want to talk to the PLO would be giving up on Jordan and the United States. If Israel recognized a moderate PLO, it would be granting legitimacy to the recognition of the PLO by Washington. Who is to tell you that those people would stop at moderation? And if Jordan were to get out of the picture, who would we be left with?" [passage omitted]

Shamir Interviewed 25 Feb

TA250832 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0600 GMT 25 Feb 88

[Interview with Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir by political correspondent 'Oz Frankel and program moderators Yitzhaq Ro'e and Ya'el Dan—live]

[Text] [Ro'e] Eight hours prior to Shultz' arrival in our region, we are happy to host his chief interlocutor in Israel, Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir. Good morning, Sir.

[Shamir] Good morning.

[Ro'e] All the skepticism surrounding this visit and the chances of its success notwithstanding, and against all odds, the peace negotiations between Israel and its neighbors are resuming this morning. Do you feel any excitement in anticipation of Shultz' visit?

[Shamir] First of all, I always gladly welcome visits by our friend Secretary of State George Shultz, particularly this time because he is armed with suggestions and ideas that could bring peace in our region closer and, naturally, promote Israel's peaceful aspirations.

['Oz] Mr Shamir, you know that your fellow party members claim that perhaps the timing of the U.S. secretary of state's visit is inauspicious for Israel, in view

of the riots in the territories and the approaching elections. Perhaps, then, as one Likud minister suggested during your meeting this week, Shultz should have been asked not to come at this time and to choose another time for his mission?

[Shamir] First of all, no one suggested that Shultz be asked to postpone his arrival. No such idea was raised among the Likud members. It is true that the circumstances are not optimal, but there are always hurdles and difficulties.

This time, no doubt, the events in Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza are not helpful or conducive to holding such serious deliberations, because our attention is primarily devoted to the efforts to bring calm to those areas and get life back to normal. This is Israel's chief goal at the moment.

Yet this does not mean that as a result we should not engage in talks or deliberations with the secretary of state. The approaching date for elections is obviously also a factor that makes things more difficult, because the real decisions will probably have to be made after the Knesset election when we will have the people's vote and decision. This, however, is not to say that until that time we should just wait for things to happen. Perhaps it will be possible to make the most of the time that remains at our disposal.

[Frankel] At one time we said we must first resolve the problem of the riots, and only then proceed to political negotiations.

[Shamir] We never set such priorities about what should come first. Perhaps someone did say as much, I do not know, but certainly to the best of my knowledge no member of any Israeli party or someone in a political decision-making position said so.

[Ro'e] It would appear, then, that the question of the timing is secondary, as one can safely assume that the plan Shultz is carrying with him would have been unacceptable to you at any time.

[Shamir] I do not know precisely all the details of the secretary of state's plan. If you peruse the papers, then you will see several versions and plans. We must clearly hear about them from Shultz himself. Even his representatives, with whom we meet regularly, have left certain questions unanswered, saying that we will have to hear this from Mr Shultz himself. This is only natural and very understandable.

Therefore I cannot address a plan whose full details are still unknown at this juncture. I also think it would be inadvisable and illogical to do so at this point in time.

[Frankel] But you must have drawn some red lines, and we know that the plan has actually crossed some of them: for example, the question of the international conference or negotiations on an arrangement...

[Shamir, interrupting] I do not know whether the plan mentions an international conference. There has been some vague talk about some international event, although there is no information about its proposed date or purpose, or in fact why it is necessary at all. My position, or our position, on an international conference is well known. I think that the U.S. Administration, too, is not too eager to embark on that route.

[Ro'e] But beyond the plan which you claim never to have laid eyes on, there are Shultz' public pronouncements. Up to 1 or 2 weeks ago, Shultz stated openly that his initiative is based on the principle of territories in exchange for peace. Later he disguised his intentions somewhat, and is now talking about resolution 242. Unfortunately, however, even that resolution mentions an Israeli withdrawal from the territories.

In what context do you regard 242, to which Israel is committed, if not in the context of one form of territorial compromise or another?

[Shamir] Look, I will meet with Shultz tomorrow morning, and that will be the best opportunity to discuss these serious matters with him. I would urge everyone to refrain from speculating about various declarations. Obviously this phrase of territories for peace or the other way around is unacceptable to me. I was happy to learn that it is no longer voiced in Washington.

As for 242, there are different interpretations to it, and in our opinion the Camp David Accords fully implemented the formula stipulated in 242. Yet this is a matter of interpretation. I can only say that our approach to these talks involves the best show of goodwill to make something substantial out of them in order to hopefully promote peace in the region, subject, of course, to conditions that would allow Israel to exist freely and independently.

[Frankel] Mr Shamir, King Husayn will not be in the Middle East in the course of the Shultz visit. The impression therefore is that the U.S. secretary of state is coming here for the sole purpose of bargaining with you.

[Shamir] This is not the case. The secretary of state will visit several countries, including, as everyone knows, Syria and Egypt. He will also see King Husayn...

[Frankel, interrupting] At the end of this round of talks.

[Shamir] I do not know exactly when. At any rate, this will not take place in Amman. Still, let me not engage in hairsplitting over this fact.

[Ro'e] If Husayn tells Shultz that he thinks Israel is not prepared to discuss the territorial issue, do you believe he will be mispresenting Israel's position?

[Shamir] I cannot say what Husayn will say or what he will be told. I do not think that Husayn is the most important or crucial factor in the current issue. We must take all the elements in the arena into consideration, and we, of course, must first of all take into consideration Israel's most vital interests.

[Frankel] At the Likud ministers' meeting we mentioned earlier, Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres was accused of having invited pressure on Israel, primarily in the form of U.S. pressure. Do you share this assessment?

[Shamir] I cannot recall precisely such a quote, but the Likud's views and assessments are well known. We are largely responsible for the kind of relations Israel has with the United States. We have always feared that any approach that differs from ours might dampen these relations or cast a cloud on them. I hope we will be able to prevent this negative development and manage to pursue the good relations which serve Israeli and U.S. interests alike.

[Ro'e] One quotation which you must surely recall is from Shim'on Peres' remarks during his latest visit to the United States, when he invited active American Jewish involvement in the peace process, calling on that community to take a stand. The Jews indeed rose to the challenge. Consequently, the impression is that the majority of the U.S. Jewish leadership supports Shultz' initiative or, in other words, the Alignment's position.

[Shamir] Obviously I totally object to the call to Jewish bodies or individuals in the world to decide Israel's policy for it and join non-Israeli elements in applying pressure on Israel. This is unheard of, makes absolutely no sense, and even blocks the chances for peace. Nevertheless, I cannot share your assessment that U.S. Jewry has already responded to these calls. Some Jews have, but there is no doubt in my mind that the vast majority of the U.S. Jewish community has full faith in the Israeli Government and supports it.

The impression that people are trying to create that the votes of some exceptional, nonrepresentative Jews, whose voice we have, unfortunately, heard emanating from various places in the world, actually reflect the position of the Jewish people is a distortion of reality.

[Frankel] George Shultz is due here today, and there has been some talk of possible U.S. pressure. Do you fear a crisis in Israeli-U.S. relations if his initiative fails?

[Shamir] I have no fear of pressure. I do not think we will be subjected to pressure or that anyone could achieve anything by applying pressure, nor do I have any fear of a turn for the worse in our relations with the United States. I believe that Secretary of State Shultz and the U.S. Government know exactly what their interlocutors think or feel, and are aware of the fact that they will be unable to force upon us anything that we would consider unacceptable. They will try to achieve what is normally attempted in political talks, and that is to persuade and be persuaded. We are always ready to take that road.

[Ro'e] Very few leaders in this wide world have had such a historic opportunity to lead negotiations for a peaceful arrangement with their worst enemy. Would it be safe to assume that you will do everything in your power not to allow such a rare opportunity to slip between your fingers?

[Shamir] Look, I am faithful to the state of Israel's goals and interests. This is my primary concern. Clearly peace stands at the head of those interests, but it must be complemented by security and our national interests. I am always ready to do my utmost to promote this important matter.

[Frankel] It would, however, be absurd to end this interview without mentioning the domestic political scene. This week you mentioned the possibility of holding early elections. Under what conditions would you accept early elections, and what date would you consider the most auspicious for them?

[Shamir] I have said, and even told the Alignment members, that we can discuss bringing the election date forward, especially if this will also help the negotiations. I presume the earliest possible date would be July or August.

[Frankel] That would be precisely the time when some of the Alignment's voters will be vacationing overseas.

[Shamir] I had no idea that all those who go abroad are necessarily Alignment voters. But if this is the case, then they must make sure that these people do not go abroad.

[Ro'e] And you personally will head the Likud list in these next elections?

[Shamir] That depends on the Likud.

[Ro'e] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir, thank you very much.

[Shamir] Thank you.

Shamir on Settlements Ban

TA242029 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 2000 GMT 24 Feb 88

[Text] The prime minister says that Israel does not agree that a peace treaty will ban settlement anywhere in Eretz Yisra'el. According to Shamir, there is no connection between settlements in the territories and a possible solution to the problem.

The Palestinians understand it is in their interest to negotiate with Israel and not with the Arab countries. Our correspondent Gid'on Remez reports that Mr Shamir said this in a meeting with a delegation of the Socialist International which came to investigate the situation in the territories.

Beilin on Overcoming Obstacles

TA250708 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 25 Feb 88

[Text] Speaking to foreign journalists in Jerusalem, the director general of the Foreign Ministry, Yosi Beilin, indicated that despite the enormous difficulties, the situation was not hopeless, in his view.

[Begin Beilin recording] There are some obstacles, but not insurmountable. If you are now speaking about a new agreement, it will not be directly with the Egyptians. It should actually be with the Jordanians and the Palestinians, and they may say: Okay, whatever you agreed with the Egyptians is very important for the history, but we are speaking about the future, and we were not part to this agreement.

But I believe that actually the same questions which were dealt with the Egyptians 6 or 7 years ago will be raised again with every new partner: about the source of the authority, about the purchase of land and water, security, foreign affairs, and so on and so forth. I believe that although it is quite a difficult story, it is not impossible to find solutions, because we have been there, and we know the openings to those questions. [end recording]

Beilin for 'Reasonable Demands'

TA240851 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0505 GMT 24 Feb 88

[Telephone interview with Dr Yosi Beilin, political director general of the Foreign Ministry, by David Grossman—live]

[Text] [Grossman] Good morning, Foreign Ministry Political Director General Dr Yosi Beilin.

[Beilin] Good morning.

[Grossman] In their meeting yesterday, the Likud ministers blamed Foreign Minister Peres for the bad timing, from Israel's point of view, of George Shultz' visit.

[Beilin] I think they are right. The timing is indeed bad. It would have been much better if this development could have taken place in May 1987, but there was someone at that time who prevented it. It is a pity that we had to reach the present timing to begin new negotiations, but if someone believes that we should postpone them even further, he is most certainly very wrong. I think we should all welcome the U.S. decision to get involved in the area, because we all know how difficult it is to believe that there will be a friendlier administration in the United States after November 1988. If there is any hope at all for the peace process—and we all understand that only the Americans can promote such a process—we should bless this administration for deciding to get involved.

[Grossman] It appears that these talks with Shultz are going to be rather odd. Does the Foreign Ministry, the Labor Party, intend to hold totally separate talks with Shultz, without the Likud?

[Beilin] No, we intend to hold joint talks. If it were up to us, we would have preferred to hold joint talks.

[Grossman] But since it is not up to you, and it seems that the talks are going to be separate, will you raise entirely different topics in the talks, will you present separate proposals? In fact, whom will you represent in the talks?

[Beilin] I think the foreign minister will choose to listen to the positions Shultz brings. Incidentally, we do not know whether Secretary Shultz is coming with a drafted document of principles, or whether he is coming to merely hear our positions.

In any event, he will be the lead star here, he will be the one to present his stands and make proposals, and we shall have to consider them. It is very possible that at some stage he will ask for our ideas, and we will have a lot of those.

[Grossman] The Likud ministers yesterday voted unanimously for adhering to the unity government's basic guidelines, meaning the Camp David Accords, in their negotiations with Shultz. If you forego the Camp David Accords, will you not be voiding the next agreement, or any agreement to which the government and the United States are signatories?

[Beilin] I think the Camp David Accords, signed 10 years ago, are the most impressive political achievement of the last 20 years. I do not think it would be right to give up these accords. They contain the most far-reaching clauses concerning the Palestinian people, their legitimate rights, and other things. They will certainly provide a basis for some negotiations or others. But no one, no Cabinet minister, says that Jordan, which was not a party to these accords, can be coerced into accepting all their particulars.

Conceptually, however, the very idea of peace in two stages—self-government first and a permanent arrangement as the second stage—has a very broad consensus in Israel and should most certainly be adhered to and used in the future.

[Grossman] Some Likud members are liable to say that concessions can be made in the process of negotiations, but you Labor people set out from a position of concessions, which can be detrimental to the entire process.

[Beilin] I do not think we should argue about this. It is the conceptual-philosophical argument of someone who has a car for sale and thinks that if he asks $5 million for it, and someone wants to buy it, there will be room for negotiations on the price. I find this approach ideologically unacceptable. I think it is much better to come to the negotiating table with reasonable demands, and not with demands so unreasonable that they obviously indicate a desire to bargain.

[Grossman] Dr Yosi Beilin, political director general of the Foreign Ministry, thank you very much.

Moda'i Calls Plan 'Nonstarter'

TA250626 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 25 Feb 88

[Text] The talks get under way in Jerusalem tomorrow, with the Cabinet divided sharply on Israel's positions. The Likud remains opposed to the basic elements of the American initiative, reportedly based on the speeded-up autonomy for the territories and talks on a permanent solution, starting with an international meeting.

Reporter Jack Katznell asked the Likud's Minister Without Portfolio Yitzhaq Moda'i whether Prime Minister Shamir in these circumstances will have anything to offer Shultz tomorrow.

[Begin recording] [Moda'i] Well, the secretary of state decided to come over to visit this region with his own proposals. He did not ask for proposals, neither from Israel nor from any other party in the Middle East. So I don't think it is Mr Shamir's obligation, or even intention, to propose anything besides what we have now, which is an agreement between Israel, the United States of America, and also Egypt, on the full process of autonomy, followed by a basic solution, or what they call there the final arrangement for the territories.

[Katzenell] But the prime minister regards the two main components of the Shultz initiative—a shortening of the autonomy process and what the Americans call the international opening—as dangerous. Doesn't this make the Shultz initiative a nonstarter?

[Moda'i] Very much so, if you ask me, and I am sure Mr Shultz took it into account. I mean, he knew, or he knows, the position of Prime Minister Shamir and the Likud. If he still decided to come, he must have taken into account that he may not accomplish much, or even anything, on his visit. [end recording]

Shultz Arrives; Met by Peres

TA251455 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1435 GMT 25 Feb 88

[Statement by Shim'on Peres, vice prime minister and foreign minister, on the arrival of U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz at Ben-Gurion Airport; in English—live]

[Text] Dear Mr Secretary and Mrs Shultz, ambassadors, ladies and gentlemen: It is my pleasure to welcome the secretary on one of what one may describe as a highly important, almost unusual visit to our country.

George, I am not sure that you will find our land a land of complete agreement, but I feel that your coming is accepted by all of us and welcomed by us. It is an agreed visit, at a most demanding period in our life, facing probably the most complicated issue of today, and we feel that you are coming equipped with friendship, experience, wisdom, and determination. And one should not necessarily, because of the complexity of the situation, share the well-publicized skepticism, because I am sure that Israel, as her Arab neighbors, as the Arabs who reside with us, are convinced that there is no better alternative but to make the first step in the long march to bring peace to our people and to our area.

We trust that this visit of yours will really be a first step in that direction. Welcome to our country.

Corruption 'Flourishing' in Reagan Administration

TA242038 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 24 Feb 88 p A10

[Editorial: "Depraved in Washington"]

[Text] In the United States it is no secret that it has been a long time since an administration has had so many corrupt people in close proximity to the President. These people tried to use their positions to aid the deals of their friends and partners. There has never been an administration so exposed and attentive to dubious proposals from private elements, proposals coming from the direction of associates using their connections.

The American term for such people is "influence peddlers." The most-interrogated person in the administration is Attorney General Edwin Meese. There were others, however, close to the President who have been tried and convicted, and others who are on their way to being convicted.

It seems as though this fact in itself is enough to unequivocally rule out the possibility of Shim'on Peres' involvement in these cheap games. Peres, however, again finds himself in a position of having to deny that he was offered a bribe in the framework of the Iraqi pipeline to Al-'Aqabah, whether in his function as Israeli prime minister or as head of the Labor Party.

We have no doubt that the corrupt group who organized this "deal" thought that bribery was a proper way of furthering their interests. One of them even took the trouble of writing down these ideas on bribery in a memo to Meese. There was an intention and a plan to bribe people, but the people to be bribed had no knowledge of this plan. Had they been aware of this plan they would have thrown the bribers out of the window hoping they would break their contemptible bones—this is certainly what Shim'on Peres would have done.

A whole army of attorneys could not cleanse Washington from the corruption which is flourishing there. The problem is that false accusations are being disseminated. Many people find themselves implicated, even though they are not involved.

MAPAM's Granot To Visit PRC 'Next Week'

TA250536 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0500 GMT 25 Feb

[Text] MAPAM Secretary General Knesset Member El'azar Granot will visit the PRC next week. The above was learned by our political correspondent. The visit comes at the invitation of the PRC Communist Party.

Polish Tennis Team Cancels Visit Due to Unrest

TA241043 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 24 Feb 88 p 7

[Report by Jack Leon]

[Exerpts] Tel Aviv—The Polish Tennis Federation yesterday cabled their Israeli opposite number that they were cancelling the scheduled one-month visit to Israel of 12 of their men and women players—including the Davis Cup squad—because of the security situation in the territories. The contingent, including three coaches, were due here last night. [passage omitted]

This would have been the first appearance of Polish players in pro-tennis competition here, though Israel and Poland did meet in Davis Cup competition in Jerusalem several years ago.

'No Great Hopes' Expressed for Tabah Compromise

TA241458 Tel Aviv HATZOFE in Hebrew 24 Feb 88 pp 1, 2

[Report by the political correspondent]

[Excerpt] There are no great hopes for a compromise on the question of Tabah's future. This was stated yesterday by political circles in Jerusalem in reaction to efforts by Abraham Sofaer, the legal adviser of the U.S. State Department, to effect a compromise in order to prevent an arbitration ruling. Such a ruling may exacerbate relations between Israel and Egypt.

Sofaer raised various ideas for a compromise. The ideas are based, however, on the principle of Egyptian sovereignty over Tabah, with easy-access regulations for Israel.

The compromise does not stipulate a division of sovereignty between the two countries because the Egyptians refuse to accept such a proposal.

In the absence of a compromise, the arbitration process will resume in Geneva in March, with the two sides summarizing their arguments. [passage omitted]

Katyushas Land in Galilee 24 Feb; No Damage

TA241946 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 24 Feb 88

[Text] This afternoon several Katyusha rockets were fired toward the Galilee from Lebanese territory. Nobody was hurt and no damage was caused.

Shamir Comments on Possible Early Elections

TA251401 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1300 GMT 25 Feb 88

[Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir this morning visited the policemen stationed in the capital area as part of the preparations for Shultz' visit. Mr Shamir said the preparations have achieved their end, expressing the hope that the quiet in the capital will continue.

He added that elections may be moved up if the Alignment and Likud can reach agreement on an election date. At the same time, he noted there is no connection between moving elections forward and the talks with Shultz.

Shamir, Peres Comments in Inner Cabinet Meeting

TA241702 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1500 GMT 24 Feb 88

[Report by political correspondent 'Oz Frankel]

[Text] It seems that the Likud and Alignment have accepted the fact that it is impossible to formulate a common political understanding between the two parties. As a result, they gave up argumentation and confrontation during today's Inner Cabinet meeting. As one of the participants testified, the discussion in the Inner Cabinet proceeded quietly, almost as if it were a symposium on peace, with little friction.

Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir repeated his commitment to the Camp David Accords. According to him, the accords are a major and painful concession by Israel on the road to peace. Shamir emphasized that the political position which is binding on both parts of the government is laid down in the coalition agreement dealing with Camp David and the autonomy plan.

Minister Weizman commented: I am glad that years after you opposed Camp David you have turned this agreement into a banner. Shamir, in response: This shows I am flexible.

Peres to Shamir: This shows you are consistent. You support political plans only when it is clear to you that there is no chance of them materializing.

Minister Yitzhaq Moda'i: It should have been said to Shultz that this is not the right time to come here. Ari'el Sharon: Our stance is that not a single inch should be handed over to foreign sovereignty. Minister Peres: The Shultz initiative should be exhausted. We should take advantage of the fact that this is the friendliest possible administration toward Israel.

The Inner Cabinet debate has not actually ended. It will continue in the coming days, or, as one of the ministers observed: The Inner Cabinet will hold a debate in preparation of Shultz's arrival after Shultz is already in the midst of his shuttle trip.

Preparations for the arrival of the U.S. secretary of state are continuing both at the prime minister's office and at the foreign minister's office. Shim'on Peres met today with the two teams of experts in his ministry who have toiled at preparing work papers: one on the interim arrangements in the territories, and the other on the principles of the permanent solution.

At this time tomorrow Shultz will already be in Israel. Expectations in Jerusalem on the eve of the visit are low.

Rabin Describes Palestinian Unrest, Policy

TA241347 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew
24 Feb 88 pp 1, 2

[Report by Knesset correspondent Shlomo Ginosar]

[Excerpts] "All the wars Israel has fought, up to and including the Lebanon war, were waged against Arab countries. In 1982 we made a strategic mistake by launching a war against the Palestinians. We can see the aftermath of that war even today, as we are embroiled in a war against the Palestinians, not the Arab countries."

The above was stated by Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin yesterday in a meeting of the Knesset's Defense and Foreign Affairs Committee. Rabin also noted that while the wars preceding the Lebanon war ended in a settlement, the latter did not. That is why the war there is continuing.

In a debate devoted totally to events in the territories, the defense minister said: The IDF will continue to take action against violence in accordance with the guidelines which the entire Cabinet has accepted. The goal is to abort any attempt to score political achievements through violence. Rabin described what is happening in the territories as "an attempt by the Palestinians to achieve through violence what they have thus far failed to achieve by means of war and terrorism. "There is no magic formula. We will continue to employ force to counter violence and believe we will overcome," the defense minister said. [passage omitted]

"What we see happening in the territories right now is different from terrorism. We are witnessing a state of affairs in which the majority of the population in the territories supports the disturbances. We will not be able to achieve complete calm in the territories. We may be able to curb the unrest, but this will never resemble the kind of 'not even one Katyusha' [allusion to former Prime Minister Menahem Begin's promise that the war in Lebanon would end tension in the north and not a single Katyusha would be allowed to fall on that region] situation of yore. A victory under these circumstances means that the inhabitants of the territories will not be allowed to dictate any political outcome through violence."

The defense minister added that the scope of IDF activity in the territories seems vaster than it really is. He also explained that he never termed the situation in the territories "a civil war." He suggested that the IDF's operations in the territories be regarded as a police action. "This is a clash between two national entities, waged through violence by civilians wishing to attain the same goals they could not achieve through terrorism and war," Rabin said.

Rabin described the current IDF mission in the territories thus: "To quell violence, to secure safety along main roads and keep them open for as long as possible, and ensure continuous regular commercial life." Rabin pointed out that right now the army no longer forces shopowners to open their businesses. [passage omitted]

ICRC 'Unprecedented' Protest on 'Brutality'

TA221106 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 22 Feb 88 p 1

[Report by Menahem Shalev]

[Text] The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) has strongly protested Israel's handling of the disturbances in the territories and has appealed to Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir to "bring to an immediate end these serious acts perpetrated against civilians."

The committee claims that it has irrefutable proof that at least three Arabs have died as a result of beatings inflicted by IDF soldiers.

In a letter handed in recent days to Israel's ICRC representative in Geneva, committee vice president Maurice Aubert writes that "thousands of people have been the victims of brutality and grave ill-treatment at the hands of Israeli soldiers."

Israel's "unacceptable" measures, he adds, have also been employed against "innocent victims such as young children, pregnant women and the elderly."

Officials in Jerusalem yesterday described the harsh tone of the protest letter as "unprecedented" and a marked deviation from the committee's usually "subdued" tone.

Aubert writes that the committee is "profoundly concerned" at the measures employed by the IDF in the territories, which, he says, "must adhere to the principle of proportionality" between the recognized responsibility for maintaining law and order and the methods employed to achieve this aim.

"The very large number of victims claimed since the beginning of December testifies that this principle has not been respected by Israeli forces responsible for maintaining law and order," Aubert writes. Noting the death of more than 50 Palestinians, Aubert states that "the very wide-spread use of physical violence against arrested suspects and the civilian population is equally serious.

"The consequences" of IDF actions "have been observed by ICRC delegates during their visits to hospitals and detention centres," Aubert notes, maintaining that at least three people have died as a result of beatings. "Hundreds of people have been subjected to physical violence, injustice and arbitrary measures even outside (of) demonstrations or unrest, particularly during curfew periods."

Aubert states that the measures employed against the civilian population in the West Bank and Gaza are "unacceptable" not only because they contravene the Fourth Geneva Convention "but above all because of their very grave consequences in humanitarian terms."

50 Percent Rise in Demand for Personal Weapons

TA231158 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 23 Feb 88 p 16

[Report by Dani Kipper and Tzvi Singer]

[Text] During the past month, more than 2,000 applications for licenses to possess and carry personal weapons were submitted by Israeli citizens, marking a 50-percent increase compared with "regular" months.

The largest rise was registered among residents of Jerusalem neighborhoods that border on Arab settlements.

Interior Ministry officials maintain that the reason for the steep rise in applications for arms stems from the disturbances in the territories. They claim that the heaviest pressure on them comes from Jerusalemites residing in such Jerusalem neighborhoods as Armon Haneziv, Abu Tor, French Hill, Neve Ya'aqov, and Pisgat Ze'ev—all located in close proximity to Arab neighborhoods and all of which have recently suffered a spate of violence.

The Interior Ministry is contemplating making conditions for eligibility for weapons easier to meet, considering the violent incidents in Jerusalem.

Police Inspector General David Kraus said that any change in the prevailing terms for possession of personal weapons must be instituted in conjunction with the police.

7 New Settlements Planned for Territories

TA241505 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 24 Feb 88 p 2

[Report by Nadav Shragay]

[Text] The Zionist Federation's Settlement Department, headed by Matityahu Drobles, submitted to the prime minister a plan for the immediate establishment of seven new settlements in Judaea, Samaria, and the Qatif Bloc.

It was made clear in the Settlement Department that no action will take place in the area prior to obtaining the prime minister's consent to the plan. At the same time, it was noted that in internal discussions held with the prime minister on the subject, the possibility was raised of establishing these settlements even if the Alignment is opposed, although the Alignment should be consulted according to the coalitional agreement of the national unity government.

Arab Resistance Groups' Activities Reviewed

TA221953 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 22 Feb 88 p A4

[Report by Me'ir Hare'uveni]

[Text] A consignment of medicines and medical supplies purchased through donations by Israeli Arabs was dispatched yesterday to hospitals in East Jerusalem and Nabulus. Shefar'am Mayor Ibrahim Nimr Husayn, the head of the Committee of Arab Local Councils, said that the Arab sector's door-to-door fund raising campaign, called 'Knock on the Door," is continuing, and medication to Gaza Strip hospitals is to begin very soon. Medicines worth 20,000 NIS [New Israeli Shekel] have been sent so far.

All the Arab villages in the Galilee and the Triangle, as well as Arab town neighborhoods, have established local committees which dispatch teams of volunteers, both adults and schoolchildren, to the residents' houses to raise donations. The money is then transferred to the headquarters of the Committee for the Promotion and Development of Medical Services which runs the operation. Members of this organization purchase medicines and equipment according to lists obtained from hospitals and medical organizations in the territories.

The Follow-Up Committee which consists of Arab local council heads, five Arab Knesset members, and the Arab representatives in the Histadrut, is also the framework for several other groups which act under its auspices. They are:

— The Israeli Committee of Arab Local Councils, which represents 59 councils.

— The Arab Educational Follow-Up Committee deals with the improvement of the educational system and applies pressure on the Education Ministry to find

solutions for the problem of housing and classroom shortages in the Arab sector. This body is managed by Shefar'am's Majid al-Haj, a Haifa University professor.

— The Committee for the Defense of Arab Lands, headed by Shihadah shihadah, an anglican priest from Kafr Yasif and a veteran RAKAH activist. This organization is one of the most radical in the Arab sector. It dates many years back, and is responsible for organizing demonstrations against the confiscation of Arab lands since the first Land Day was marked in the Galilee about 10 years ago.

— The Association of Nazareth Arab Academics is another radical body clearly influenced by HADASH, and is led by Marwan Dawiri, [name as published] a psychologist employed by the Nazareth municipality. This body has been active in organizing protest demonstrations and solidarity rallies with the Palestinians from the territories. It featured prominently in the organization of the Peace Day events and the demonstration in Nazareth.

— The Committee of Arab University Students, whose headquarters are in Haifa University, has been very active in organizing demonstrations, some of them violent, on the campuses of Haifa, Jerusalem, and Tel Aviv Universities. This committee is controlled by HADASH and by another, more radical group: the Progressive National Movement, which is close to the Sons of the Village group.

— The Committee of High School Students is the umbrella organization for the student committees of every high school in the Arab sector. RAKAH's influence on this body has recently grown.

— The Islamic Movement, headed by Kafr Qasim's Shaykh 'Abdallah Darwish, only recently joined the Follow-Up Committee. Its goal is to bring about a return to Islam. The Islamic Movement takes part in activities involving protest and identification with the territories, and in raising funds.

The riots in Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza have been followed by a political awakening among the Israeli Arabs. It has already been manifested in several main trends:

An increase in the power of radical circles, budding organizational activity, and violent action against the authorities and against the Jewish Israeli population (stone barriers on Galilee and Gilbo'a roads, Molotov cocktails in Nazareth and in Wadi Ara', and incidents of throwing stones at vehicles); and an attempt to create a pressure group capable of influencing life in Israel.

More on Continuing Disturbances in Territories

Arab Kills Boy in Qabatiyah

TA241511 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1500 GMT 24 Feb 88

[Text] A 4-year old boy from Qabatiyah was killed by a local inhabitant who was attacked during a demonstration. Our correspondents report that the inhabitants of the village organized a march in the direction of a local inhabitant's house. The man was afraid of the demonstrators and fired at them using a gun he was licensed to hold. The boy was killed by the shots, and 13 other people were wounded. The IDF forces arrived on the scene later and restored order.

Palestine Press Reports Death

TA241519 Jerusalem Palestine Press in English 1216 GMT 24 Feb 88

[Text] Muhammad Qasim Abu Zayd Kamil, 4, was shot dead this afternoon by Israeli soldiers during a demonstration that broke out in the village of Qabatiyah, Janin District. According to hospital sources 15 other people were injured by live ammunition and were admitted to Janin Hospital. Soldiers later clashed with the residents of the village in front of the hospital while the residents were waiting to give blood.

Qabatiyah Incident 'New Phase'

TA241750 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1705 GMT 24 Feb 88

[Report by correspondent in the territories Arye Gus]

[Text] A short time ago it was learned that the body of the man who this morning shot and killed a boy, and wounded 13 others, was found in the village of Qabatiyah in Samaria.

His body was found this evening hanging on an electricity pole. Nobody knows exactly what happened. Several inhabitants said he committed suicide following this morning's incidents. Another possibility is that he was murdered by the residents as revenge for the murder and the wounding of the others.

This is a tragic chain of events which began this morning when hundreds of villagers marched through the town. When they reached the house of the man—whose name has not been disclosed—they started throwing Molotov cocktails at the house and tried to burn it. The man feared for his life and started firing at the rioters with a gun he is licensed to hold. He killed a 4-year old boy and wounded others. The riots in the town continued and the inhabitants finally managed to burn the house. Some time later the body was found. So far it is not clear what happened.

The incidents in Qabatiyah constitute a serious escalation in the events of the last few months. It is true that the PLO and other stations have repeatedly called for attacks on inhabitants who are suspected of having many contacts with the authorities. Attempts have been made, but until today nobody was hurt. Today's events constitute a new phase in the uprising. Perhaps it is too early to define it, but something new has taken place in Qabatiyah today.

Curfew Imposed on Qabatiyah

TA251025 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1000 GMT 25 Feb 88

[Text] The security forces have detained approximately 20 suspects in the murder of Muhammad al-'Ayyad from Qabatiyah, who was suspected of collaborating with the authorities. Our correspondent Gabi Zohar reports that the situation is currently calm in Qabatiyah, and the village is under curfew.

Our correspondent Moti Amir reports that in the Gaza Strip there were attempts to burn tires, throw stones, and hoist PLO flags. A resident of the Al-Shati' refugee camp, who was wounded last night, has been transferred to a hospital in Israel.

Qabatiyah 'Lynching' Recounted

TA250621 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 25 Feb 88

[Text] Police and army investigators continue to investigate the lynching of an Arab from the Samarian village of Qabatiyah. The village has been sealed off and telephone lines cut. Steve Rodan brings us up to date:

Qabatiyah this morning has been sealed off. Residents are being prevented from leaving the village, telephone lines have been cut, and many people have been arrested, this while police and the army continue their investigation into the lynching of a Qabatiyah man, Muhammad al-'Ayad, and the burning of his house.

Al-'Ayad was licensed to carry an Uzi submachine gun, a rare privilege among Arabs and one that automatically marked him as suspicious in his northern Samarian village. Palestinian sources termed him a collaborator with Israeli authorities. Israeli military officers said the lynching of Al-'Ayad may signal a new phase in the Palestinian unrest: attacks against those Arabs privileged with either licensed pistols or even special license plates on their vehicles.

One Palestinian activist explained: To us, a suspected collaborator is one who enters the Civil Administration headquarters on a regular basis and gets whatever he wants. Still, Palestinian sources at the village say they saw the incident as isolated. They said there have been no organized attacks against suspected collaborators.

What exactly happened at Qabatiyah is still not clear. Military and local sources agreed that a march began near Al-'Ayad's house. Al-'Ayad apparently panicked when the villagers got too close to his home and opened fire, killing a young child. At that point, thousands of enraged residents mobbed his home, evacuated his wife and children, set the house on fire, and dragged off Al-'Ayad, who by this time had run out of ammunition. He was later found dangling from an electricity pole. The army arrived at the scene and dispersed the mob. The casualty toll: 1 boy dead and at least 14 wounded.

Today police plan to continue their investigation of the lynching. Only then will the army lift the curfew on Qabatiyah.

[Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew at 0600 GMT on 25 February carries an update on the situation in Qabatiyah, adding that Major General 'Amram Mitzna', commander of the Central Command, says that "the IDF has a pretty good idea who carried out and who served as an accomplice in the barbaric incident in Qabatiyah yesterday. He emphasized that the IDF takes a most serious attitude toward these people."]

Houses of Suspects Demolished

TA251450 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1430 GMT 25 Feb 88

[Text] The houses of two of the suspects who were directly involved in the murder of the Qabatiyah resident yesterday were demolished today by IDF forces. Our correspondent 'Eran Ben-Porat notes that over the last 24 hours IDF forces have detained approximately 100 people from Qabatiyah who were involved in the murder of Muhammad al-'Ayyad 'Abdallah. The blockade imposed on Qabatiyah will continue for the time being.

Update on Gaza, Judaea

TA250836 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0800 GMT 25 Feb 88

[Text] The security forces in the Gaza Strip have imposed a curfew on the Al-Nusayrat refugee camp where riots occurred yesterday.

Gaza Strip workers have not left for work in Israel today either, and traffic there is limited.

A commercial strike is under way in Judaea and Samaria, yet some workers have left for work.

Our police correspondent Moshe Nussbaum reports that the police have rejected the request of the Palestinian Center for Research on Nonviolence to demonstrate during Shultz' visit. They had intended to stage a demonstration near Damascus Gate on Saturday. Our correspondent has learned from the police that demonstrations in this location are not approved because of the escalation they are liable to cause.

And in all this turmoil in the territories, the Judaea District Police tonight apprehended eight drug dealers in the area of Bethlehem. Our correspondent Arye Gus reports that the police had used an Arab undercover agent, who brought about the detention of the eight dealers suspected of selling hard drugs, including heroin. Our correspondent reports that the detentions have caused no disturbances.

Roundup of Incidents 25 Feb

TA251224 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1200 GMT 25 Feb 88

[Text] There were disturbances in various places in Janin a short while ago. They began in refugee camps on the outskirts of the town, where residents burned tires and threw stones.

Our correspondent Gabi Zohar reports that IDF soldiers fired tear gas canisters at the rioters. There is a full commercial strike in town and after the riots began, the few residents who were still out in the streets went back to their homes.

A Balatah youth sustained light leg injuries from shots fired by border policemen. One of the policemen was hurt by a rock thrown at him during a violent riot in the camp. Our correspondent Arye Gus reports that Balatah residents hurled stones and various objects at the border policemen, who in turn fired tear gas and rubber bullets and then shot at the rioters' feet. This is how the local youth sustained his light leg injuries. Others were hurt by rubber bullets.

A van was set on fire in the Ramallah area this morning. The driver escaped, and the security forces have launched an investigation.

In the 'Anata refugee camp north of Jerusalem, policemen dispersed a group of youths who were throwing rocks at them. One of the policemen was hurt in the leg.

Cars passing the Al-Tur neighborhood on the Mount of Olives were attacked. Three of them were slightly damaged. The above is reported by our correspondent Moshe Nussbaum.

In the Gaza Strip, the attempts to disrupt the normal flow of life are continuing, and today pamphlets signed by the Popular Committees for the Defense of the Uprising were circulated, calling on the residents to continue the strike to protest Shultz' visit.

In Rafah, an assembly at the (Shaburah) junction and a disturbance in Tall al-Sultan school were dispersed this morning. Agitators also tried to interfere with the departure of workers for Israel this morning, and threw stones at them.

Arab Youth Killed in Janin

TA251311 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1300 GMT 25 Feb 88

[Text] An Arab youth was killed and another seriously wounded in a mass riot in the Janin refugee camp. Our correspondent Arye Gus reports that a mob attacked an IDF patrol with rocks and metal bars. The soldiers on patrol were forced to use live ammunition, having seen that their attempts to disperse the rioters with tear gas and rubber bullets had failed.

There were also disturbances in Balatah and Tulkarm, where two youths were wounded by fire. Another two youths were injured in the village of Yatta on the Hebron Hills. Dozens of rioters attacked an empty army tank carrier with bottles and rocks, smashing its windshields. Two people riding in the vehicle got out to clear the way. When they saw that the attacks on them were continuing, they fired at the rioters' feet, injuring two people.

Umm al-Fahm Shows Solidarity

TA250540 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0500 GMT 25 Feb 88

[Text] The Umm al-Fahm Municipality says that solidarity with the residents of the territories must not be expressed through violence. The municipality stated that the resolution of the Committee of Arab Local Councils expressing solidarity with the residents of the territories should be upheld, as long as they do not violate the law. Our correspondent Yo'el Dar reports that this resolution was adopted last night at a special session of the Umm al-Fahm Municipal Council.

Arab Death Toll Reaches 59

TA221313 Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew 22 Feb 88 p 1

[Report by military correspondent Avi Bnayahu]

[Text] As of yesterday, 59 Arabs in the territories have been killed by IDF fire since the eruption of unrest in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip starting in early December. The IDF spokesman stated this yesterday in response to 'AL HAMISHMAR.

Thirty-one Arabs were killed in the West Bank and 28 in the Gaza Strip. Over 500 Palestinians, 316 in the West Bank and 199 in the Gaza Strip, have been wounded in the disturbances.

Further on Kidnapping of Higgins, Response

UN's Goulding Optimistic

NC241733 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 24 Feb 88

[Text] Marrack Goulding, UN under secretary general for political affairs, arrived at the UN forces headquarters in Al-Naqurah today to follow up the intensive search campaigns that have been mounted to bring about the release of Lieutenant Colonel William Higgins and UNRWA employees William Jorgensen and Jan Stening. Goulding, who arrived in Al-Naqurah from Cairo today, held telephone conversations with President Amin al-Jumayyil, Acting Prime Minister Dr Salim al-Huss, and Amal Movement leader Minister Nabih Birri. He expressed regret for being unable to visit Beirut because of bad weather conditions, and because of his prior commitments to visit Amman and Europe.

Official Lebanese sources have stated that Goulding briefed the Lebanese officials on the measures and steps the UN forces in the south are taking to ensure the release of the kidnapped U.S. officer. He pointed out that such measures might produce good results, and expressed optimism in this regard.

Da'ud: Kidnap Leader Identified

NC242120 Paris AFP in English 2111 GMT 24 Feb 88

[Text] Tyre, Lebanon, Feb 24 (AFP)—A U.S. Marine officer kidnapped near here last week is probably being held in the southern Lebanese town of Jibshit, a senior official from Shi'ite Movement Amal said Wednesday.

Da'ud Da'ud, head of Amal's Executive Committee, said his organization had also identified the leader of the commando unit that seized Lieutenant William Richard Higgins on February 17.

He declined to name the commando chief but said the information was based on accounts given by three Shi'ite fundamentalists who were among six people detained by Amal two days after the kidnapping.

The six men are former members of Amal who have fallen under the influence of a more militant Shi'ite group, Hizballah (Party of God), according to Amal officials.

Mr. Da'ud said Amal militiamen on February 18 had intercepted a man carrying a message to the kidnappers asking them to move Lt. Col. Higgins to Beirut.

"But we are quite certain that Higgins is in the Tyre or Al-Nabatiyah region" of southern Lebanon, Mr Da'ud said, adding that the officer was "probably" being held on Jibshit, a Hizballah stronghold 80 kilometers (50 miles) south of Beirut.

Amal condemned the kidnapping of Lt. Col. Higgins, deputy commander of the United Nations Truce Supervision Organization, and is staging a massive search for him in the Tyre region.

Amal militiamen on Wednesday threw up road blocks and inspected cars along the Mediterranean coastal road north and south of here and have also searched pivate homes in the area.

Hizballah and other fundamentalist pro-Iranian groups have condemned Amal's efforts to find the officer, whose kidnapping has been claimed by the Oganization of the Oppressed of the World. The group has accused Lt. Col. Higgins, a 43-year-old Vietnam veteran, of being an agent of the Central Intelligence Agency.

But Mr. Da'ud said Wednesday that "an agent is someone who works against the interest of his own people and country on behalf of another country. In this case, I think it is not Higgins who is the agent."

Another Amal official, 'Abd al-Majid Salih, earlier in the day declared that Amal was not seeking armed confrontation with its rivals.

"The kidnapping phenomenon in southern Lebanon is a provocation," he said. "We are not looking for Higgins because he is American but because this affair concerns the security of the region."

Amal Willing To Use Force

NC251055 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1015 GMT 25 Feb 88

[Text] Amal's Executive Committee chairman, Da'ud Da'ud, has affirmed that his movement will use force to release U.S. officer Higgins if it locates the place where he is being detained. Commenting on the current tension between Amal and Hizballah following the arrests carried out by Amal in search of Higgins, Da'ud said: We have drawn red lines and we will confront all those who cross them. He added: This will not necessarily be carried out by military confrontation, but we might relinquish responsibility for maintaining security in the South. REUTER has quoted Shi'ite sources in Beirut as saying that Higgins' place of detention is still unknown despite the searches which have been carried out.

More UN Kidnapings Expected

NC251635 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1515 GMT 25 Feb 88

[Text] Da'ud Da'ud, Amal's Executive Committee chairman, has stated that the Amal Movement stands before two options: Either it preserves security in the south or it is relieved of this responsibility, because there are groups that want to stir up a war among the members of the Shi'ite community.

Speaking before 35 Shi'ite clerics in Tyre, Da'ud stressed that Amal was charged with maintaining security in the south during a meeting held in Tehran in 1985 between Hizballah and Amal leaders in the presence of Iranian officials.

Da'ud declared that Amal is ready to use force to release kidnapped U.S. Officer Higgins if his place of detention is located.

Da'ud disclosed that the movement possesses definite information on a plan to kidnap more foreigners working with UN organizations in the south. He added: We have definite security reports saying that 25 individuals, who specialize in abductions and have vehicles and weapons at their disposal, have been sent to the south to kidnap more foreigners.

Fadlallah: Abduction Political

NC251725 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1645 GMT 25 Feb 88

[Text] Scholar Muhammad Husayn Fadlallah said Higgins' kidnapping is a political issue connected to the U.S. presence in UN organizations, which serves U.S. intelligence. In a statement to a magazine, he accused the French UNIFIL contingent of conducting a political, sectarian, and demographic statistics campaign in the villages of southern Lebanon in order to obtain accurate information on the situation.

Fadlallah said UNIFIL is linked to U.S. policy and that some of the contingents are linked with Israel. He said the presence of these forces is not as important as certain parties think.

Al-Amin Wants U.S. 'Killed'

NC251609 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1400 GMT 25 Feb 88

[text] Hizballah Information Official Ibrahim al-Amin has stated that the United States must be killed, and that he who can kidnap must do so in isolation from the party which kidnapped, or which was behind the kidnapping of Officer William Higgins.

In an address he delivered at the College of Information today, Al-Amin added: We must not debate the question of whether the operation [Higgins' kidnapping] was a mistake or not. We support an event called the confrontation of the United States.

Al-Amin continued: I want to refer to the network of political relations between the United States and Lebanon. We hear and see this network through the voices that have denounced the kidnappers. We advise the honest voices among them, if there are any, to be on their nation's side.

Al-Amin said: The question is one of a U.S. spy. The question is also that since 1948 Israel has been kidnapping the entire nation. We proudly support any action that confronts the United States, even if its authors make a mistake. We believe that it is the nation's duty to keep its head held high before the United States and Israel.

A transformation, Al-Amin added, has occurred to a remarkable degree in Arab Lebanon, a Lebanon in which everything was once American. Since 1982 our battle has been that of ousting the United States from inside ourselves and from our positions.

Al-Amin questioned the reasons for the presence of the U.S. officer in the south and in the United Nations Truce Supervision Organization.

He said: We are not looking for a president, but for our destiny as a nation. Are we working for [the liberation of] Palestine and Jerusalem or not? Those who want to liberate Jerusalem must not recognize the borders with Israel. They also must not accept any security arrangements with Israel. Twenty years from now we may not be able to defeat Israel, but we can continue to refuse to sign security arrangements with it.

Further on Abduction of UNRWA Employees

PFLP's Salah Handed ID Papers

NC251121 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1015 GMT 25 Feb 88

[Text] It has been learned that the UNRWA employees' kidnappers handed the identity cards of their two hostages to PFLP Political Bureau member Salah Salah 2 weeks ago. It has also been learned that Salah will hold a news conference today to clarify the issue. It is noteworthy that Abu Iyad [Salah Khalaf] asserted, in a statement on 20 February, that a group linked to Iran was involved in the kidnapping.

Palestinians Not Responsible

NC251706 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1515 GMT 25 Feb 88

[Text] At a news conference held this afternoon, Palestinian official Salah Salah stated that the two UNRWA employees are not in the hands of any Palestinian group. He stressed that the kidnappers are Lebanese and do not want to harm the two hostages.

Salah added that Stening had adopted a Palestinian child from the West Bank. This expresses human feelings that prompt us to make more efforts to bring about the release of the two UNRWA employees, he said.

Salah stated that the kidnapping incident harmed the Palestinians' status in Lebanon and created a climate that marred Palestinian-Palestinian and Palestinian-Lebanese relations.

He expressed the belief that there is no justification for the reduced UNRWA services. He also declared his rejection of the collective punishment that UNRWA has imposed on the Palestinian people for a mistake they did not make.

Meanwhile, Palestinians staged sit-ins today in front of the UNRWA and Red Cross offices in Sidon to protest the kidnapping of UNRWA employees Jan Stening and William Jorgensen.

Clerics in South Prohibit Abduction, Infighting

NC251356 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1215 GMT 25 Feb 88

[Text] Following a meeting at the Imam Musa al-Sadr Club in Tyre, 34 pro-Amal clerics have issued a statement rejecting a return to the situation that prevailed in the south prior to 1982, and expressed their opposition to acts of aggression against the UN forces. The statement stressed that the Amal Movement should continue to be responsible for security in the south. The clerics totally prohibit internecine fighting among Muslims, as well as abductions.

Fatah, Hizballah Plan To Kidnap Syrian Officer

NC242047 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 2015 GMT 24 Feb 88

[Text] It has been reported that the Syrian troops in West Beirut have taken strict security measures at all checkpoints, around the Beau Rivage Hotel, and in the Al-Ramlah al-Bayda' area. These measures have been taken after the Syrian military intelligence in Lebanon had uncovered a plan by the Fatah Movement, with Hizballah's help, to kidnap a Syrian intelligence officer.

According to this information, Yasir 'Arafat has given Fatah Officer 'Abd al-Latif al-Salah the green light to carry out the kidnapping with the help of Hizballah. This is in retaliation for the arrest by the Syrians of some Fatah officers who were travelling on the Khaldah Road. They Syrians sought the help of a Fatah officer, who identified his fellow Fatah members who pass to and from the south through Khaldah. According to the same information, the target of the kidnapping attempt is Colonel 'Ali Hammud.

Hizballah Gunmen Attack Amal Roadblock in South

NC251301 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1215 GMT 25 Feb 88

[Text] Hizballah gunmen attacked an Amal roadblock on the approach road to Al-Duwayr in the Al-Nabatiyah area at noon today. Two persons were wounded in the ensuing clash.

7 Amal Gunmen Wounded

NC251511 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1445 GMT 25 Feb 88

[Text] The tension between Amal and Hizballah has increased. Seven Amal gunmen were wounded when Hizballah gunmen threw a hand grenade at an Amal roadblock near the village of Al-Duwayr in the Al-Nabatiyah district. An exchange of gunfire ensued between the two sides.

6th Brigade Replaces Amal on Contact Lines

NC250711 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0615 GMT 25 Feb 88

[Text] The part of the implementation of the security plan which called for the deployment of 6th Brigade units along the contact lines has been completed. These units have been deployed along the lines extending from the Shatila traffic circle to Mar Mikha'il church. The Amal Movement has vacated its positions and withdrawn its weapons from the area.

Al-Huss, Ivorian Envoy Discuss Attacks, Ties

NC241251 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 24 Feb 88

[Text] The issue of attacks on the African community in East Beirut appears to be nearing a solution now that the judiciary is dealing with it. This issue, subsequent measures taken regarding it, and bilateral relations were discussed today between Acting Prime Minister Dr Salim al-Huss and Armel Koudou Aziegbo, Ivorian ambassador to Lebanon.

Following the meeting, Ambassador Aziegbo said: We have already expressed our regret over events and discussed the issue with the president. Certain measures have been taken, and we are satisfied with them. The issue is now in the hands of the judiciary, and justice will take is course. We have to transcend such regrettable incidents and act to strengthen relations between Lebanon and Africa.

Responding to a question, the Ivorian ambassador said: All Lebanese have denounced the incidents that have taken place. This encourages us to put these incidents behind us and to let justice take its course.

For his part, Acting Prime Minister al-Huss expressed his regret for and denunciation of the attacks on some members of the African community in East Beirut. During his meeting with the Ivorian ambassdor, Al-Huss telephoned Major General 'Umar Makhzumi, director of the internal security forces, who briefed him on recent measures to protect the Ivorian Embassy in Al-Rabiyah and prevent the repetition of attacks against it.

Diplomatic Relations Established with Maldives

NC251033 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1000 GMT 25 Feb 88

[Statement issued by the Ministry of Foreign and Expatriate Affairs in Beirut on 25 February]

[Text] The governments of the Republic of Maldives and the Republic of Lebanon, out of their desire to establish joint relations of friendship and cooperation, based on equality, noninterference in the internal affairs of other states, and respect for their independence and territorial integrity, have decided to institute dipldomatic relations between the two countries at ambassadorial level with

effect from 25 February 1988. Each government has agreed to appoint a non-resident ambassador to represent it in the other country at the appropriate time.

Ghanaian UNIFIL Soldier Wounded by Amal Gunmen

NC251507 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1445 GMT 25 Feb 88

[Text] UNIFIL spokesman Timor Goksel has stated that a soldier of the Ghanaian contingent serving with UNIFIL was wounded when Amal gunmen opened fire on him near Al-Bazuriyah Village in the Tyre district today.

For its part, the Amal Movement said that Ghanaian soldier did not stop at one of the roadblocks it has erected in the area to aid in the search for kidnapped U.S. officer William Higgins.

SLA's Lahd 'Warns' UNIFIL on Al-Qantarah Death

NC251630 Marj 'Uyun Lebanon Voice of Hope in Arabic 1600 GMT 25 Feb 88

[Text] Staff Major General Antoine Lahd, commander of the Southern Lebanese Army [SLA], addressed the following warning to UNIFIL today:

Investigation into yesterday's Al-Qantarah incident has proved that the terrorists were at a distance of 30 meters from the UNIFIL post in the area when they opened fire at an SLA patrol in broad daylight. Worse than this, the UNIFIL personnel at the position also fired at patrol, resulting in the martyrdom of one soldier and the wounding of three others.

This behavior on the part of UNIFIL is very serious. Therefore, in the event that similar incidents occur, the SLA has been ordered to deal with the UNIFIL soldiers as if they were dealing with terrorists.

The UNIFIL Command must take the appropriate measures to see to it that similar incidents do not happen in the future, or else it will have to bear the consequences and the reaction of public opinion.

Fundamentalists Shell Galilee Settlements

NC251059 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1015 GMT 25 Feb 88

[Text] Fundamentalists in southern Lebanon have reported that their gunmen shelled Galilee settlements with nine Katyushas at dawn today in response to Shultz' visit to Israel. The fundamentalists said that the rockets hit their targets and injured residents.

Israeli Military Activities Reported 24 Feb

Troops Arrest 3 Palestinians

NC241525 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1445 GMT 24 Feb 88

[Text] According to security sources in the south, Israeli troops have arrested three Palestinians during the last 10 days as they were attempting to infiltrate into Galilee. The same sources added that three others managed to escape.

Gunboats Approach Sidon Coast

NC242201 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 2045 GMT 24 Feb 88

[Text] All lights were switched off in Sidon tonight after Israeli gunboats approached the Sidon coast and directed their searchlights at the town. Meanwhile, Israeli warplanes flew over Sidon and Iqlim al-Kharrub this evening. The Israeli aircraft dropped flares during their overflights.

Air Reconnaissance Over Tyre

NC250935 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0915 GMT 25 Feb 88

[Text] Israeli fighter planes flew reconnaissance sorties over the Sidon area at 1000 today. Last night, Israeli aircraft flew over Tyre in Southern Lebanon and dropped flares over an area where U.S. Lieutenant Colonel Higgins is believed to be detained.

Car Bomb Explodes in West Beruit 24 Feb

NC241535 Paris AFP in English 1531 GMT 24 Feb 88

[Text] Beirut, Feb 24 (AFP)—A woman was burnt to death inside a car that exploded Wednesday in downtown West Beirut, injuring three passers-by, police said.

Police reports said a man had parked the car, a white Mercedes Benz, near a bank in the Al-Hamra' District and walked away minutes before the explosion.

The woman's charred body could not immediately be identified.

Police and Syrian troops, who control the mainly Moslem sector of the Lebanese capital, formed a security cordon around the scene of the blast, firing in the air to warn off crowds, correspondents said.

Passenger, 3 Pedestrians Killed

NC241530 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 24 Feb 88

[Text] A Palestinian national called Maha 'Abdal-Qadir was killed when a booby-trapped Mercedes 200 exploded in Beirut today. The driver of the automobile managed

to escape. It has been learned that the automobile belongs to 'Abbas Wahbah. It also has been determined that the explosive device weighed 2 kg and was placed on the back seat.

We have just been informed that there are contradictory reports about the number of those killed in the explosion. According to available information, three people have been killed, a girl and two men.

Shultz Urged Not To Ignore 'Arab Interests'

JN250851 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0545 GMT 25 Feb 88

[From the press review]

[Text] Brothers, under the headline "Shultz and the Realistic View," the newspaper AL-THAWRAH says in its editorial today: We do not exactly know whether U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz, who will arrive in the region today, has a sufficient and true view of Middle East events. Likewise, we do not yet know what the U.S. secretary of state carries or what he will propose.

Nevertheless, some issues should be clarified in the hope that such clarification may help the chief of U.S. diplomacy realize the substance of events in the region and see them just as they are and not as depicted for him by others.

Foremost of these issues is the fact that the Camp David style has been completely paralyzed, has not brought peace to the region, and has not spread security and stability in it.

On the contrary, the Camp David accords have created tension and brought forth danger of war. Moreover, these accords have not enhanced the U.S. role in the Middle East but rather decreased Washington's credibility before the Arabs.

The U.S. did not obtain political, economic, or military gains from its insistence on the Camp David course, which has turned into a heavy burden on U.S. policy. This is because the Camp David course has failed and is no longer fit to continue.

Hence, if George Shultz tries during his current tour to revive the Camp David course, the attempt will be a lost effort and waste of time. We do not believe that a prudent secretary, such as Shultz, will fail to take these facts into consideration. Likewise, we do not believe that Shultz will try to swim against the current of life, logic, and reality.

The second self-evident issue is the recent explanation and analysis carried by Arab and world news media indicating that Washington is now intensively seeking to circumvent the sweeping popular uprising in the occupied territories, abort this uprising, and prevent its spread to new Arab areas.

Although we are eager not to forestall events or offer explanations, the mere assumption that some U.S. politicians think in such a way actually points to the gap between U.S. policy and Middle East reality and to U.S. ignorance of what is taking place in this part of the world.

The ongoing popular uprising is neither an isolated action nor a transient phenomenon. It is an expression of a current of popular wrath which has begun to sweep the whole Arab homeland.

Therefore, pressures against the uprising in the occupied territories will inevitably create more violent uprisings in new areas, led by Egypt.

These new uprisings will take the form of a tumultuous volcano that may shake or destroy the entire political structure that the U.S. has built up in the region in the past 25 years.

Thus, Shultz is now asked to deal genuinely with the facts created by the uprising and not to seek to circumvent and ignore realities. Shultz' failure to do so will be an adventure whose results are not taken into consideration—an adventure that will be full of danger and unpleasant surprises for the U.S..

Concluding, the newspaper AL-THAWRAH says: Any ideas that neither provide the possibility of regaining the Arab rights that Israel is usurping nor ensure security for all Arabs will not survive regardless of the efforts and strength of those who adopt them.

The region's contemporary history offers abundant examples recalling the ill-omened fate of all separate plans that did not take Arab interests into consideration.

Talks Begin With Italy's Giulio Andreotti

JN242016 Damascus Television Service in Arabic 1830 GMT 24 Feb 88

[Text] Official talks between the Syrian Arab side headed by Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' and the Italian side headed by Foreign Minister Giulio Andreotti began at the Foreign Ministry tonight.

Nasir Qaddur, minister of state for foreign affairs; Yusuf Shakkur, assistant foreign minister; Dr 'Abd al-Karim Sa'ub, director of the economic department; Hisham Kahhalah, director of the West European Department; 'Abd al-Karim al-Sabbagh, director of the Information Department; and Walid al-Mu'allim, director of Special Offices Department; attended the talks on the Syrian side.

On the Italian side the talks were attended by (Bruno Butani), director general of the Foreign Ministry; (Ricardo Lionitti), the Italian ambassador in Damascus; (Anzo Bolat), director general of political affairs; (Fernando Salilo), director general of economic affairs; (Juzino Pancoya), chief of the press office, and (Luigi Palkini), director of the foreign minister's office.

The talks dealt with the current situation in the region and issues of mutual concern.

Italian Foreign Minister Giulio Andreotti arrived in Damascus this evening for a 4-day visit.

He was received at Damascus International Airport by Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar', the assistant foreign minister, the director of the West European Department at the Foreign Ministry, the director of protocol, and the Italian ambassador in Damascus and embassy staff.

Upon arrival, Andreotti said that the aim of his visit to Damascus is to hold talks with Syrian officials on the Middle East and the uprising in the occupied Arab territories. He pointed out the international weight of Syria and its important role in finding a solution to the Middle East problem.

He added: I am here to listen to the views of the Syrian officials and to give our views to do what is possible whether by Italy or the Euroepan Community to bring about a solution to the Middle East issue. He said the popular uprising in the occupied territories pushes us to find a solution for these conditions in the occupied Arab territories.

Afghanistan

Resistance Picks Interim Government Leader

BK251124 Hong Kong AFP in English 1117 GMT 25 Feb 88

[Text] Islamabad, Feb 25 (AFP)—The Afghan resistance alliance has unanimously chosen Ahmad Shah to lead a mujahidin transitional government, informed resistance sources said Thursday.

Mr. Shah, 43, an engineer, is deputy chief of the Etehad-e Eslami group of rebels headed by 'Abdul Rab Rasul Sayyaf and one of the most highly-educated resistance leaders.

The Afghan mujahidin alliance announced Tuesday the formation of an interim government composed entirely of members linked to resistance groups and which would be empowered to sign an eventual peace accord on Afghanistan in Geneva.

Sayyed Amin Departs for USSR, Hungary

LD242026 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 24 Feb 88

[Text] Sayyed 'Amanuddin Amin, first deputy prime minister, left for Moscow today at the invitation of Soviet authorities. He is leading a state delegation and representatives of national entrepreneurs for talks concerning the precise size of Soviet cooperation in opening joint projects in the private sector and the conclusion of an economic cooperation protocol.

At Kabul International Airport the delegation was seen off by Mahbullah Koshani, deputy prime minister and chairman of the State Planning Committee; Muhammad 'Aziz, deputy prime minister; His Excellency Gyorgy Varga, ambassador and representative extraordinary of the People's Republic of Hungary, and [name indistinct], economic advisor of the Soviet Embassy in Kabul.

Sayyed 'Amanuddin Amin, after concluding his trip to Moscow, is due to visit Hungary for talks about the expansion and further strengthening of the economic and trade links between the two countries and the conclusion of protocol on scientific-technical cooperation.

Kirghiz SSR Delegation Arrives for Talks

LD222149 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 22 Feb 88

[Excerpts] A delegation from the Kirghiz SSR, led by Asyeyinov Mukin, deputy chairman of the Council of Ministers of this republic, arrived in Kabul today on an official friendly visit. [passage omitted]

A BAKHTAR correspondent reports that the delegation met this afternoon with Sayyed Ekram Paygir, state minister for direct cooperation affairs. During the meeting, attended by the governors of Bamian and Vardak Provinces, both sides discussed topics of mutual interest and the expansion of direct cooperation between Kirghiz SSR and the provinces of Bamian and Vardak.

USSR Civil Aviation Ministry Delegation Arrives

LD222128 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 22 Feb 88

[Text] A delegation of the USSR Civil Aviation Ministry, led by Deputy Minister I.F. Vasin, arrived in Kabul today for talks on mutual cooperation in civil aviation and on further development of civil aviation activities in the Republic of Afghanistan. The delegation was welcomed at Kabul International Airport by Muhammad 'Aziz Negahban, minister of civil aviation, and other ministry officials.

Received by Nazar Muhammad

LD250436 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 24 Feb 88

[Text] Nazar Muhammad, first deputy prime minister of the Republic of Afghanistan, met this afternoon in his office with the delegation of the USSR Ministry of Civil Aviation headed by I.F. Vasin, USSR deputy civil aviation minister. The BIA correspondent reports that 'Aziz Negahban, minister of civil aviation for the Republic of Afghanistan, attended the meeting.

Talks and discussions were held about subjects of mutual interest, including the creation of a regular aviation network, regulating the flights of civil aircraft, and training of satisfactory cadres in the area of aviation activities.

Kabul, Other Areas Receive USSR Aid, Money

LD250716 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0454 GMT 25 Feb 88

[Text] Kabul, February 25 BAKHTAR—Under the protocols of direct links of cooperation between Konduz Province and (Qarghan Tapa) of Tadjik SSR technical, medical and press equipment worth seventy-nine thousand rubles were delivered by the Soviet side to Konduz Province during the current Afghan year (ending March 20, 1988).

Our reporter quoting a representative of Konduz provincial administration reports that the commodities were comprised of 97 medical accessories, 26 small technical units and their spare parts, 29 electric appliances and five items of educational material.

Likewise, the Soviet Union [word indistinct] the same year has assisted more than ten million rubles in the forms of equipment, medicine and medical accessories on gratis basis to the health institutions and hospitals of the Republic of Afghanistan.

Equipment, valued six million rubles, of the Uzbek SSR medical exhibition held here a short while ago, were also submitted to the Ministry of Public Health of Afghanistan free of charge.

The Soviet Union has assisted Kabul Municipality with an amount of seventeen million dollars during this year. A representative of Kabul Municipality said that the sum mentioned above will be spent for the construction of modern residential blocks, kindergartens, expansion of housing factory, paving of roads, construction of markets and other social and civil services.

Over twenty Soviet experts work side by side [with] the Afghan workers and specialists in the constructional branch and residential projects, the representative added.

UNHCR Delegation Arrives in Kabul 23 Feb

LD250630 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0415 GMT 25 Feb 88

[Text] Kabul, February 25, BAKHTAR—The delegation of the UN high commissioner for refugees arrived here on Tuesday.

The delegation will observe the process of the return of the Afghan refugees and will provide necessary aids and facilities for them. The delegation will also hold talks with Afghan authorities in this respect.

The [word indistinct] delegation was welcomed at Kabul International Airport by a number of officials of the Ministry of Foreign affairs.

Defense Minister Opens Army Training Facility

LD242146 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 24 Feb 88

[Text] The polygon of the infantry training center was opened today in a ceremony to mark the 10th anniversary of the April Revolution.

According to the report of a BIA military correspondent, the polygon was opened today by Major General Muhammad Rafi', minister of defense, and Lieutenant General Sayyed Muhammad Gulabzoy, minister of internal affairs [words indistinct] was built in modern style by workers, engineers, and officers of the Construction Department of the Ministry of Defense, which was commissioned today.

At the start of the ceremony, the deputy minister of defense for construction affairs spoke about the polygon. The guests visited various sections and inspected the firing activities of weapons, tank, artillery, and combat [word indistinct] in the polygon. At this ceremony a military exercise was also carried out by [word indistinct] battalion.

The report adds that the minister of defense spoke at the ceremony. He expressed his appreciation for the hard work of those Construction Department personnel who had a major role in the construction of the polygon. He highly assessed the role of this polygon in raising the level of soldiers' military training.

At the end of the ceremony, the ministers of defense and internal affairs presented medals and badges of the Republic of Afghanistan to the workers, soldiers, engineers, and officers of the Construction Department of the Ministry of Defense who had properly accomplished their duties in the center's construction.

Najibullah Meets With Balkh Province Elders

LD242016 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 24 Feb 88

[Text] Esteemed Najibullah, president of Afghanistan, this morning met with members of the assembly of elders and representatives of the Kholm District, Balkh Province, at Delkosha Palace, headquarters of the presidency, and spoke with them about the realization of the process of national reconciliation in the country and the environmental issues of that district.

At the meeting, Najibullah spoke about the political solution to the situation around Afghanistan and the successful realization of the national reconciliation policy in the country.

A number of elders of the Kholm District spoke on behalf of the others. They expressed support for the national reconciliation policy and the statements of the Afghan and Soviet leaders concerning the solution of the situation around Afghanistan. They put forward a number of demands and environmental problems, concerning which esteemed President Najibullah issued the necessary instructions to the relevant sources.

Group Joins National Reconciliation Process

LD232118 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 23 feb 88

[Text] According to a report from the BIA military office, another 200-man armed group, led by Muhammad Esmail, gave up yesterday in Qaysar District, Fariab Province. The group announced its readiness to join the national reconciliation policy, following a 420-man armed group that earlier came to the government's side.

The report adds that Brigadier General Ulomi, head of the Armed Forces Department of the PDPA Central Committee, spoke at a meeting on this occasion. He shed light on the humane national reconciliation policy. In

particular, he discussed the first-year gains of this policy, and the statement by esteemed Najibullah, president of Afghanistan. The deputy leader of this group said that it is going to fully participate in the construction of the country and rebuild the destruction imposed by the past 9 years of war.

The report adds that, after armed activities ceased and these compatriots came over to the side of national reconciliation, another 13 villages in this district came under government sovereignty and 700 unarmed compatriots gave up living in caves and on mountains, returned to their homes, and formed a tribal detachment to defend peace in their villages.

Briefs

Mas'ud at Soviet Transport Exhibit

Kabul, February 18, BAKHTAR—Exhibition of the Soviet land transport achievements was opened in a ceremony in the House of Sciences and Culture of the Soviet Union on Wednesday. Haydar Mas'ud, Politburo member and secretary of the Central Committee of the People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan (PDPA CC), prime minister deputies, some ministers, and high ranking officials of the Ministry of Transport and members of the delegation of the Soviet Russian Federation were present at the ceremony. In the exhibition, which will remain open to public for one week, photos showing systems of land transport, workshops, transport hangars, mockups of transportation means, equipments and models are on the display. After the victory of the April Revolution, the Soviet Union has assisted on gratis basis, more than 1500 transport vehicles to the Republic of Afghanistan. Presently, the majority of commercial merchandises needed by the people are transported throughout the country, by the Russian made vehicles. [Text] *[Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0415 GMT 19 Feb 88 LD]*

Writers Union Elects Chairman

Kabul, February 23, BAKHTAR—The Writers Union of Afghanistan held its plenary meeting here on Monday [22 Feb]. The meeting elected Candidate Academician Akram Osman as chairperson of the Writers Union. The meeting heard the report presented by the Union's chairperson, Dastagir Panjshiri. The plenary meeting relieved Dastagir Panjshiri from his post as chairman of the Union due to his appointment to another post. The participants of the plenary meeting adopted a resolution in connection with the realisation of the resolutions passed by the Loya Jirgah, (Grand Assembly), the Constitution and in support of the statement of the Afghan president, Najibullah on the political solution of the situation around Afghanistan. [Excerpts] *[Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0433 GMT 24 Feb 88 LD]*

Bangladesh

Army Ordered To Maintain Election Security

BK241644 Dhaka Domestic Service in Bengali 1430 GMT 26 Feb 88

[Text] President Ershad had a meeting in Dhaka today with the chiefs of three units of the Armed Forces, the area commanders of the Army, and the principal staff officers. They discussed the overall situation in the country. He ordered the Armed Forces to maintain the security of the voters and polling stations for holding free and fair elections on 3 March.

Meanwhile, the president, who is also the supreme commander of the Armed Forces, took part in the discussions at a meeting on the joint winter military exercises at Army Headquarters today. Army Chief Lieutenant General M. Atiqur Rahman spoke at the meeting. The Army area commanders and principal staff officers also took part in the meeting.

'Dozen' Crude Bombs Explode in Chittagong

BK241405 Hong Kong AFP in English 1350 GMT 24 Feb 88

[Text] Dhaka, Feb 24 (AFP)—About a dozen crude bombs exploded in the port city of Chittagong, injuring at least one person, the official BSS news agency said Wednesday.

Two of the blasts occurred near a cinema late Tuesday and the others were in other areas of the city the same day, it added.

It said at least one person was in hospital following the explosions in the Bangladesh port city but gave no indication who might have planted the bombs and why.

Workers Clash With Police; 15 Injured

BK241411 Hong Kong AFP in English 1348 GMT 24 Feb 88

[Text] Dhaka, Feb 24 (AFP)—At least 15 people were injured in clashes between transport workers and police in northern Bangladesh, press reports said here Wednesday.

The clashes erupted Tuesday in Tangail after a group of transport workers went to the local district administrator's office to demand the release of a bus driver arrested in connection with a robbery, the daily SANGBAD said.

At least fifteen people were injured, including five policemen, press reports said.

The transport workers staged a strike following the incident, paralysing transport services between Dhaka and Tangail, some 70 kilomters (40 miles) to the north, the reports said.

Khaleda Invites Hasina to Unity Rally

BK231418 Dhaka THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 18 Feb 88 pp 1, 10

[Text] Begum Khaleda Zia, chairman of Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) and leader of the Seven-Party Alliance, on Wednesday called upon the people to further intensify the movement to unseat the present government. She cautioned the Government against political persecution and repression and added that it would hasten its downfall.

Addressing a public meeting organised by Seven-Party Aliance at Gulistan Square, Begum Khaleda Zia invited Awami League Chief Sheikh Hasina to join her at the central Shaheed Minar [Martyrs Memorial] on Ekushey February (February 21) wherefrom they would give a call for united movement to unseat the present government and restore the democratic rights of the people. She expressed her conviction that the united movement of the people would inevitably bring the fall of the present Government.

Presided over by herself, the meeting was addressed by BNP Secretary General K.M. Obaidur Rahman. Joint Secretary-General Abdul Matin Chowdhury, Barrister Abul Hasnat, former mayor of Dhaka Municipal Corporation, Mr. Abdur Rauf Chowdhury of Democratic League, Advocate Mujibur Rahman of United People's Party, Barrister Rafiqul Islan Miah of BNP and others.

Begum Khaleda Zia said that BNP and the Seven-Party Alliance had been in the movement for the last six years to establish people's representative government in the country. She alleged that the democracy under the present Government would never be restored.

Referring to the recently concluded Union Parishad [council] election, Begum Khaleda Zia said that several hundred people were killed and thousands injured in the election. Terming it is unprecedented, she said that never before such a huge loss of lives took place in the country in the local bodies election. Begum Khaleda Zia claimed that none of the election held under the present Government went without violence or loss of human lives. She apprehended recurrence of further violence in the future elections under the present Government.

She blamed the Government for pushing the country close to a civil war. She advised the Government not to use the administration and the members of the law-enforcing agency for his own political purpose. Begum Zia simultaneously urged the officials in the administration and in the law-enforcing agencies to maintain strict neutrality for the sake of the nation.

The BNP chief severely criticised the Government for curbing the Press freedom in the country. She alleged that the foreign journalists were not allowed in the country by the Government in the apprehension that all its misdeeds would be made open to the world. She demanded resumption of operation of the BBC in the country.

Begum Khaleda Zia alleged that the present government came to power through unconstitutional means and had been carrying on unconstitutional activities since then.

Referring to present law and order situation in the country, she alleged that increasing volume of unlawful activities and crimes amply proved that there was no government in the country. Criticising the Government for its failure to establish rule of law in the country, Begum Zia said that the Government should resign forthwith apologising to the people.

Begum Zia alleged that the present Government had nationalised corruption and allowed to it infiltrate in all the spheres of national life. She criticised the Government for selling the state enterprises specially the heavy industries to the private sector only to increase the woes of the employees without any national benefit.

The BNP Chairman strongly condemned the Government for destroying the academic atmosphere in the education institutions in the country since it took power. Terming it as calculated and pre-planned, Begum Zia said that the present government had done it to cripple the nation and the country. She blamed the Government for spoiling the character of the students through its antipeople measures.

She alleged that the rule of law was absent in the country. Referring to the demands of the lawyers, she said that the Supreme Court of the country remained closed for a long time as the lawyers continued their movement against the Government to establish independence of Judiciary.

India

Surface-to-Surface Missile Successfully Tested

BK251242 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 25 Feb 88

[Text] India has successfully carried out the first ever test firing of its tactical surface to surface missile "Prithvi." The test firing took place in the forenoon today and met all the specifications. This was announced by the prime minister in the Lok Sabha. With this successful test firing, India joins the select group of four nations which have developed this class of surface-to-surface missile. The missile is based totally on indigenous design and development efforts of the Defense Research and Development Organization [DRDO].

Mr Rajiv Gandhi described the firing as a notable milestone in India's program to achieve self-reliance in areas of high technology and of considerable significance to our defense preparadness. He informed the members that "Prithvi" has a range capability of 250 kilometers

with different types of large payload warheads which will inflict heavy damage on adversary targets. He announced that after a number of necessary test launches we plan to induct "Prithvi" in numbers into our defense forces.

The prime minister on behalf of the house extended warm greetings and congratulations to all the scientists, engineers, technicians, and workers of the DRDO for this achievement.

4 Killed in Punjab; Gandhi, Governor Confer

BK240454 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0435 GMT 24 Feb 88

[Text] In Punjab, four persons including two terrorists were killed in a village near Batala last night. The terrorists died in an exchange of fire. Security forces have arrested six terrorists, two in Faridkot District and four in Mogha Subdivision. Some arms and ammunition have been recovered from them.

The governor, Mr Sidhartha Shankar Ray, called on the prime minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi, in New Delhi last evening and apprised him of the latest law and order situation in the state. Mr Ray is understood to have informed the prime minister of the steps being taken to check the spurt in terrorist violence. The governor also had a meeting with the home minister, Mr Buta Singh.

Lok Dal Leader, Others Killed in Punjab

BK250331 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 25 Feb 88

[Text] In Punjab, a Lok Dal leader, Mr Chandra Prakash Ghai, of Balachor in Hoshiarpur District was killed by terrorists yesterday. Two shopkeepers were also gunned down in Gurdaspur District and one in Amritsar.

Polish Foreign Minister, Gandhi Hold Talks

BK240328 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 24 Feb 88

[Text] India and Poland have urged the superpowers to take forward their agreement signed for the abolition of medium-range nuclear missiles. During their talks in New Delhi last evening, the prime minister, Rajiv Gandhi, and the visiting Polish foreign minister, Mr Orzechowski, also agreed on the need to consider both nuclear and conventional weapons disarmament in view of the complex situation in Europe. Their discussions covered the situation in Afghanistan and Kampuchea. Mr Rajiv Gandhi told the Polish minister of the situation in Sri Lanka and connected developments beside India-China relations.

Earlier, Mr Orzechowski and the minister of state for external affairs, Mr Natwar Singh, had detailed discussions on a number of subjects including Pakistani assistance to extremists in India.

Parliament Briefed on Visits by Foreign Ships

BK240748 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0730 GMT 24 Feb 88

[Text] The minister of state for external affairs, Mr Natwar Singh, informed the Lok Sabha today that the government is not aware of any foreign naval ships with nuclear weapons on board having visited any Indian port. Answering supplementaries, he said however, 29 foreign naval ships visited Indian ports last year with the permission of the Government of India.

The defense minister, Mr Pant, has said that the government is maintaining a constant watch on the acquisition of military equipment by neighboring countries. In a written reply in the Lok Sabha, he said the government is aware that Pakistan is proposing to acquire F-714 [as heard] aircraft from China and also plans to manufacture modified F-7 aircraft as part of a joint venture with the USA and China.

Iran

IRGC Launches 'Zafar-6' Operation in Kirkuk

LD250755 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0732 GMT 25 Feb 88

[Unscheduled announcement]

[Text] Dear listeners, please pay attention: The zealous warriors belonging to you, the heroic ummah, in continuation of their holy defense, have begun new operations deep inside Iraqi territory and we now inform you, the dear compatriots, on the gains of these operations:

The committed fighters of Islam's corps have once again, demonstrated their firm resolve to guard dear Islam and showed that they are not going to give up their demand to punish the aggressor. On the basis of a report received from Ramadan Headquarters, the center for directing irregular operations of the Ground Forces of the IRGC, the Imam Khomeyni forces of the 9th Badr Division under the command of this headquarters, launched the extraterritorial "Zafar-6" operations yesterday.

Relying on divine succor, the operations began from three axes in the Tangab sector, east of the Iraqi Province of Kirkuk. By attacking positions of the feeble enemy, our fighters inflicted another heavy defeat on the war-mongering army of Iraq.

500 Iraqis Reportedly Killed

LD250801 Tehran IRNA in English 0749 GMT 25 Feb 88

[Text] Tehran, Feb. 25, IRNA—Iran's Muslim combatants began operation Zafar-6 deep inside Iraq in the Sangar region, east of Kirkuk Wednesday.

The operation was launched by "Imam Khomeyni force" from Badr Division 9 under the command of the Ramadan Headquarters of the Islamic Revolution's Guards Corps (IRGC).

At least 500 Iraqi troops have so far been killed and wounded in the operation. Many others were captured, 70 of whom have been moved behind the fronts so far.

Tehran radio interrupted normal programs at 11:00 hours local time (07:30 GMT) today and played martial music to announce the news and fresh victories gained by the Muslim combatants of Iran.

Capture of Heights Noted

LD250821 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0746 GMT 25 Feb 88

[Unscheduled announcement]

[Text] O dear compatriots! Thanks to the extensive attacks of the brave fighters of Islam on the first axis of the "Zafar-6" operations, the forces of Islam took full control of the Nasir, (Mehvareh), Sur, and Qali heights and also Heights No 606 in order to destroy all the enemy bases in the Sangar region.

During these operations, which were carried out in line with the struggle of the oppressed people of Palestine against the occupying regime of Jerusalem, the personnel of the Imam Khomeyni forces succeeded in destroying enemy bases on these heights, and killed or wounded more than 220 enemy troops and captured a number of them.

There is no assistance except from God. [Koranic verse]

Success in Second Axis

LD250843 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0756 GMT 25 Feb 88

[Unscheduled announcement]

[Text] Dear listeners! During the operations in the second axis of the "Zafar-6" operational theater, the headquarters of the Iraqi 25th Khafifah Battalion was mopped up and the battalion commander killed. Iraqi fighters also captured the deputy commander of the battalion, Armor Captain Karmin 'Abd al-Karim.

Along this axis of the operations, in the (Chanbasereh) region, the combatants took control of the strategic important (Basereh) Bridge and fully encircled three main enemy bases in this region, including the garrison of 135th Khafifah Battalion and a garrison of the independent, mechanized infantry battalion of the enemy I Corps.

After a hand-to-hand battle, with full superiority on the part of the defenders of Islam, the Imam Khomeyni forces took control of the garrison and in the end more than 100 enemy troops were killed and 20 others, including several officers and NCO's, were taken prisoner.

Further on 'Zafar-6' Operation

LD250917 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0813 GMT 25 Feb 88

[Unscheduled announcement]

[Text] Dear listeners, please pay attention to the latest communique that we have received from the Ramadan Headquarters. On the third axis of the "Zafar-6" destructive operations, launched east of the town of Sangar, 80 km southeast of Kirkuk, several enemy bases and enemy concentration points along the roads leading to the town and also the Ba'thist bases guarding the oil centers of this region were cleansed of the filth of the presence of the enemy.

The General Staff of the three forces of the IRGC reports that in the course of these destruction operations, hundreds more enemy troops, including Major Ja'far 'Abd Husayn, were killed, a large number were wounded, and 15 more troops, including some high-ranking officers, were taken prisoner. We are assisted by God and our victory is nigh. [Koranic verse]

Iraqi Roads Captured

LD250918 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0824 GMT 25 Feb 88

[Unscheduled announcement]

[Text] Dear compatriots, the General Staff of the three IRGC forces reports that during the successful "Zafar-6" operations, launched by the Imam Khomeyni forces under commander of the 9th Badr Division and with the cooperation of the Kurdish warriors, east of the Iraqi Province of Kirkuk, the forces succeeded in dominating the following main roads: Sangar to (Chamchal) and Kirkuk; Sangar to Qadir Karam and Kirkuk; Sangar to Qarah Dagh and Al-Sulaymaniyah; and also Sangar to (Darband-i Khan) highway.

The Imam Khomeyni forces achieved all their predetermined objectives and after encircling 14 enemy bases in these regions destroyed all these bases and killed, wounded, or captured the troops deployed in the bases. During these operations a considerable number of Ba'thist army weapons were destroyed and some enemy equipment, including 60 undamaged radio sets, were captured by the true defenders of Islam. May you be victorious and proud; God bless the courageous warriors of the liberating army of monotheism.

150 Iraqis Killed

LD250925 Tehran IRNA in English 0907 GMT 25 Feb 88

[Text] Tehran, Feb. 25, IRNA—Iraqi Mujahidin thwarted a counteroffensive by Iraqi forces along Sangar-Chamchal road in the "Zafar-6" operational region this morning. The Iraqi troops were forced to retreat sustaining more than 150 slain.

According to Ramadan Headquarters, more than 30 Iraqi forces were taken captive in the crushed counter-attack. Battle still raged in the "Zafar-6" theater with Mujahidin holding the upper hand.

Khatem ol-Anbiya' Communique

LD251144 Tehran IRNA in English 1110 GMT 25 Feb 88

[Text] Tehran, Feb. 25, IRNA—More than 530 Iraqi forces were killed or wounded and over 70 others including several ranking officers were taken captive during "Zafar-6" operations launched in Sangar region, 80 kms southeast of Kirkuk Wednesday, announced the Khatem ol-Anbiya' headquarters in a communique today.

Six tanks, two anti-aircraft artillery units, eight 82-mm mortar launching pads, tens of munitions depots and several heavy machine guns were destroyed or set ablaze during the operation.

Two armoured personnel carriers, several machine guns and mortar launching pads, 60 wireless sets and a large amount of guns were also seized undamaged by Muslim combatants.

The operation was carried out by "Imam Khomeyni Force" from Badr Division 9 affiliated to the Supreme Assembly of the Islamic Revolution of Iraq (SAIRI) and under the command of the Ramadan Headquarters of the Islamic Revolution's Guards Corps (IRGC) in coordination with Iraqi Kurdish forces in relatiation for the Iraqi bombardment of ten villages in Iraq's Al-'Amadiyah and Shaykhan areas in Dahuk Province.

Iraqi Mujahidin in solidarity with the ongoing uprising of Palestinian Muslims against the Zionist forces launched the operation from three axes inflicting heavy casualties on Iraqi forces.

In one axis, Muslim combatants took control of heights "Gard Naser", "Gard Maqbara", "Gard Su", "Gard Qali" and Height 606 in the general sector of Sangar.

In Cham Basera [placename as received] axis, Iraqi Mujahidin took over the strategic bridge of Basera [placename as received] after a heavy fighting. The garrison of the independent infantry mechanised battalion of the first corps was sieged by the Muslim Mujahidin and after a hand-to-hand fighting, it was mopped up by enemy forces.

Meanwhile, a garrison for Khafifa-135 (light) battalion and headquarters of Khafifa-25 battalion were mopped up and commander of Khafifa-25 battalion was killed and his deputy, Armoured Captain Karim 'Abd al-Karim, was captured.

On the third axis of the "Zafar-6" operation, the Muslim Mujahidin took control over the main roads of Sangar Chamcham-Kirkuk, Sangar Qadir Karam-Kirkuk and Sangar Qarah Dagh-Al-Sulaymaniyah and the secondary road of Sangar-Darband-e Khan. They also cut all the logistic roads in the region and they attacked two important garrisons and 14 bases in Sangar region killing or capturing their personnel.

Major Ja'far 'Abd Husayn, commander of the Independent Infantry Mechanised Battalion of the First Corps was among the slain in this axis.

Lebanese Muslims Prepare To 'Welcome' Shultz

LD241236 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1105 GMT 24 Feb 88

[Station commentary: "Anti-Zionist Activities in South Lebanon"]

[Excerpts] Side by side with the Islamic uprising in Palestine, Muslim Lebanese revolutionaries have intensified their anti-Zionist attacks in the south of that country. In the latest attack, which took place yesterday, two Israeli soldiers were killed and two others wounded when their tank was attacked by the revolutionaries, according to the Lebanese police. [passage omitted]

The Islamic, anti-Israeli resistance in southern Lebanon not only has led to the liberation of a large part of that country from the control of the Zionists, it also has had an undeniable effect on the new Palestinian generation in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip. The total resistance and the nonaffiliation with those groups favoring compromise discussions have taught the Palestinian youths that they may continue their uprising with new thoughts and motivation.

Now, with the intensification of anti-Zionist struggles and the ineffective suppression of the uprising by the forces occupying Palestine, the U.S. Government has been forced to send its secretary of state to the region with certain plans for halting the uprising. The regional politicians and rulers in some ways have prepared themselves to welcome George Shultz, although there is a great deal of hesitation in their minds regarding the success of his visit.

On the other hand, Muslim revolutionaries, these anti-Zionist and anti-U.S. fighters, by intensifying their demonstrations and strikes in occupied Palestine and with their military operations in southern Lebanon, are surpassing others in their preparations to welcome Shultz.

They want to prove to everyone that the only way to solve the Middle East crisis is for the Zionists to withdraw from the occupied territories, thus granting the people their rights.

Musavi Condemns Saudi 'Insolence' Over Hajj

LD250832 Tehran IRNA in English 0815 GMT 25 Feb 88

[Text] Tehran, Feb. 25, IRNA—The government's Political Council met Thursday morning to discuss the latest domestic and international developments.

Speaking after the session Prime Minister Hoseyn Musavi commented on the forthcoming Hajj rituals this year.

Referring to last year's massacre of the Hajj pilgrims by the Hijaz [Saudi] Government he said this year the regime has gone even further in its opposition to Islamic beliefs and is after preventing Iranian pilgrims from travelling to Holy Mecca.

He said the Saudi Government has not allowed Hojjat ol-Eslam Emami-Jamarani, Imam's representative and head of the Hajj and endowments organization, to travel to Hijaz to make the preliminary arrangements for the travel of the Iranian pilgrims.

There is no doubt, Musavi stressed, the Islamic Republic Government and world Muslims will severely encounter this insolence by the Saudi regime.

Velayati Returns From Visit to Indonesia

LD250619 Tehran IRNA in English 0613 GMT 25 Feb 88

[Text] Tehran, Feb 25, IRNA—Foreign Affairs Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati returned home Thursday morning at the end of a three-day visit to Jakarta describing his talks with Indonesian officials as satisfactory.

In an interview with IRNA upon arrival he said in talks with Indonesian officials it was agreed to hold a joint economic commission at ministerial level.

On Iran-Indonesia cooperation, he said that both countries are members of the Non-Aligned Movement and could play effective roles in the movement. Indonesia is one of the most populous Islamic countries and in the past two years relations between the two countries have improved and volume of trade has increased by several folds. This, he said, could even further increase.

On subjects discussed in meetings with Indonesian officials he said they included Cambodia, Persian Gulf and Afghanistan crisis.

Velayati Sends Message to SFRY Counterpart

LD231154 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 23 Feb 88

[Text] On the eve of the Balkan foreign ministers conference in Belgrade, our country's foreign minister, in a message to his Yugoslav counterpart, who is hosting the conference, announced:

The justice-seeking uprising of the people of occupied Palestine has opened an important chapter in the political events of the world. In light of the fact that the Balkan countries have repeatedly experienced the bitter taste of occupation and invasion in the course of contemporary history, they undoubtedly feel the bitter taste of the inhumane domination of the Zionists over the Muslim people in this land. After giving up hope on the fruitless political and diplomatic efforts, the Muslim people of occupied Palestine, by relying on their own will, have resorted to a justice-seeking uprising.

Now that the regime occupying Palestine is a symbol of the violation of human rights, it would not be inappropriate if the Balkan foreign ministers conference were to rise in support of the rights of the oppressed Palestinians and recognize their right of sovereignty over all the occupied territories, and to condemn the aggressive deeds of Israel. Naturally, if the conference takes such a position, this would create a positive feeling among Muslims of the world.

In his message, our country's foreign minister has wished full success for the Balkan foreign ministers conference.

Turkish Official Discusses Trade With Nabavi

LD241452 Tehran IRNA in English 1446 GMT 24 Feb 88

[Text] Tehran, Feb. 24 IRNA—Visiting Turkish Minister of State for Economic Affairs Yusuf Ozal started his first round of talks with Heavy Industries Minister Behzad Nabavi here Wednesday.

In the meeting, Nabavi referring to the notable increase in Tehran-Ankara trade exchanges since the victory of the 1979 Islamic Revolution, said that the figure mounted $2.3 billion in 1985 from $1.5 billion in 1982.

But unfortunately, Nabavi said, the volume of bilateral trade exchanges dropped to $942 million in 1986 as a result of global arrogance's plots to drive down the oil price.

Among other topics discussed at the meeting were the existing obstacles blocking the implementation of certain atricles of the letter of understanding signed by the two countries last year.

It was also agreed that Turkish and Iranian technical experts at the joint committees for mutual cooperation in the fields of commerce, industry, foreign trade, transportation and non-oil goods, would pave the way for drafting of a letter of understanding.

Yusuf Ozal arrived here Tuesday night to make preparations for Turkish Prime Minister Turgut Ozal's visit to Tehran next week.

Mo'ayeri Receives New Italian Ambassador

LD241811 Tehran IRNA in English 1622 GMT 24 Feb 88

[Text] Tehran, Feb. 24, IRNA—Italy's new ambassador in Tehran Vittorio Amadeo Farinelli conferred with Deputy Prime Minister for Political Affairs 'Ali Reza Mo'ayeri, here Wednesday.

Talks were held at the meeting on international issues, mutual relations and ways to expand the bilateral ties.

Prime Minister Chairs Research Council Meeting

LD241841 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 24 Feb 88

[Text] The state scientific research council held a meeting this afternoon chaired by Prime Minister Mir Hoseyn Musavi.

At this meeting the following topics were presented: the latest results of research concerning the construction of the first surface missile [radar-e sathi] at Sharif Industrial University with the cooperation of the self-sufficiency industries of the IRGC; the construction of a computer decoder by Amir Kabir Industrial University; the contracts for research work on several types of radar and missiles between universities and military bodies; and the production of two new sunflower seeds, the first type of which will achieve a 20-percent increase in yield per hectare, and the second type a 30-percent increase.

Cabinet Discusses Bombing, Banker's Report

LD241214 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 24 Feb 88

[Text] The Cabinet met today. In the meeting, national and international developments were examined and discussed. Interior Minister Mohtashemi then presented a report about the daring operations of the IRGC of the Central Islamic Revolution Committee.

In the course of these operations they identified and destroyed the bomb plot network affiliated with Iraq. The operations lasted 49 hours and were implemented on a nationwide scale in Tehran and in the country's border regions.

In the meeting, a section of a film taken during the interrogation of the principle agents of this criminal group was also shown to the Cabinet members.

On the basis of this report, Prime Minister Mir Hoseyn Musavi spoke after the interior minister delivered his report. The prime minister referred to the valuable services of the Islamic Revolution Committee in the various stages of the revolution and described these latest operations as outstanding and epic-making. He praised the ceaseless efforts of those who serve the revolution in the Islamic Revolution Committee.

During the meeting, Mr Qasemi, managing director of the Central Bank who led and economic and banking delegation to Sri Lanka to attend the 16th meeting of the directors of members of the central banks of the Asian Barter Union, presented a report on the aims behind the formation of the union, as well as on the results of the latest meeting.

The report says the following issues were raised at the meeting: the approval of the suggestions to expand the membership of Asian countries in the union and to form an Asian reserve fund; the reading of a report by the union's Secretariat, which is based in the Central Bank of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

The same report states that the Cabinet approved the recommendation of the Central Bank in connection with the membership of the Islamic Republic of Iran in the Asian reserve fund. The Cabinet stipulated that the Central Bank should pursue the necessary legal steps in line with the progress being made in the union's discussions over the formation of the fund.

IRGC Unit Announces Dates for Troop Dispatch

LD251427 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 25 Feb 88

[Text] The IRGC Mobilization Unit of the Deprived issued a statement inviting all volunteer popular forces and those that have been placed on the rota to go to the mobilization resistance tanks set up in the mosques, offices, factories, schools, and universities all over the country, and also to the IRGC bases in order to participate in the dispatch of the troops of the Holy Imam Hasan Mojtaba, may God's peace be upon him.

In this statement, the date of the dispatch of the troops of the Holy Imam Hassan was announced: Yazd Province, 28 February; the Provinces of Chahar Mahall va Bakhtiari, Gilan, Kerman, and Bovir Ahmad va Kohkiluyeh, 29 February; Fars and Bakhtaran Provinces, 2 March; the Provinces of Azarbayjan-e Khavari, Iiam, Semnan, and Hamadan, and the Central Province, 5 March; Zanjan Province, 6 March.

It is necessary to note that Kordestan Province will dispatch troops on 2 March under the title: Third Phase of the Fighters of the Holy Prophet Muhammad, may God's peace be upon him and his scion. Note also that the dates for dispatches from other provinces will be announced in the future.

Iraqi Helicopters Attack Iraqi Villages

LD240946 Tehran IRNA in English 0755 GMT 24 Feb 88

[Text] Orumiyeh, W. Azarbayjan Prov., Feb. 24, IRNA—Several women and children were martyred and a number of houses were destroyed as a result of Iraqi air raid of ten villages in Iraq's Al-'Amadiyah and Shaykhan cities, north of that country on Feb. 12 and 14.

Reports reaching here from Iraq indicate that Iraqi gunship helicopters pounded Birsafi [placeneme as received] camp, District of Khur [placeneme as received] martyring several children and civilians.

Farmlands and livestock sustained damage during the raids. Meanwhile, 61 Iraqi militarymen deserted their posts last week and joined Muslim fighters in northern Iraq; 56 of them brought their weapons. Forty-six have their families with them.

Joint Staff Communiques Detail Recent Operations

Communique No 3,122

LD241644 Tehran IRNA in English 1625 GMT 24 Feb 88

[Text] Tehran, Feb. 24, IRNA—Iranian jet fighters heavily bombed Iraqi positions and troop concentration sites in areas overlooking Faqqeh Theater, Southern Sector, at 1050 hours local time (0720 GMT) Wednesday, inflicting heavy casualties and losses on the enemy. All the fighters returned safely to bases.

The 3122nd Joint Staff Communique, announcing the above, reported here Wednesday the Islamic Republic Air Force effectively carried out their reconnaissance flights over the Persian Gulf and the Gulf of Oman Tuesday ignoring warnings from foreign war ships.

In the Strait of Hormuz, Iran's naval gunboats intercepted and inspected a cargo ships and an oil tanker Tuesday but allowed them to continue voyage after making certain they were not carrying cargo for Iraq.

Three unidentified helicopters flying from a foreign warship attempted to approach Iran's southern oil islands Tuesday but were repelled by heavy Iranian anti-aircraft fire.

Meanwhile, a considerable number of Iraqi soldiers were killed or wounded and heavy losses inflicted on the enemy throughout the battlefields by Iranian artillery fire yesterday.

In Panjwin and west of Jofeyr, northwestern and western sectors, Iraqi motorized and armoured units sustained substantial losses Tuesday when hit by the artillery fire of the Muslim combatants.

On Tuesday, Iranian artillery fire checked Iraqi logistical activities in Mehran and Naft Khaneh, western sector, and inflicted heavy losses on a number of enemy engineering vehicles.

At 1700 hours Monday, Iranian artillery set afire an Iraqi munitions dump in Hoseyniyeh, southern fronts so much so that heavy smoke billowing from it engulfed the region for several hours, concluded the communique.

Communique No 3,123

LD251543 Tehran IRNA in English 1531 GMT 25 Feb 88

[Text] Tehran, Feb. 25, IRNA—Iranian naval units intercepted and searched three commercial ships in the Strait of Hormuz Wednesday, but allowed them to continue voyage since no suspicious cargo was found. Iranian jet fighters provided excellent air cover to naval forces in their patrol mission in the Persian Gulf and Gulf of Oman yesterday, reported the 3123rd Joint Staff Communique here today.

On the warfronts, timely artillery fire of the Muslim forces halted activities of Iraqi tanks in Panjwin, Sardasht, Nahr 'Anbar and Hoseyniyeh Wednesday. An Iraqi patrol unit was also forced to flee from Kani-Sheykh operational theater by Iranian artillery fire.

Iraqi engineering equipment in Panjwin and Qasr-e Shirin operational regions came under heavy artillery fire of the Muslim combatants, suffering some casualties and losses yesterday. Enemy motorized columns in Qasr-e Shirin were also subjected to Iranian fire which inflicted causalties and losses on Iraqi troops.

Casualties and losses were also inflicted on Iraqi troops by Gendarmerie forces of the Islamic Republic Wednesday, concluded the communique.

Pakistan

'Severe Explosion' Reported in Peshawar

LD200641 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0419 GMT 20 Feb 88

[Text] Kabul, February 19, BAKHTAR—As a result of a severe explosion that occurred in Kalowni area of Peshawar city of Pakistan ten oil tankers were completely destroyed and heavy human and material losses inflicted on the residents of the area.

Reports reaching here say that the fire-brigade in Peshawar city was able to extinguish the fire after long hours. The exact report on the losses has not yet reached here.

Talks With India Over Wular Barrage Issue End

BK241150 Islamabad Domestic Service in English 1100 GMT 24 Feb 88

[Text] The 2-day official-level talks between Pakistan and India on the Wular Barrage [which India is constructing on the Jhelum River in Kashmir] ended in Islamabad today.

Official sources told Radio Pakistan's representative that another round of talks will be held in New Delhi sometime next month to arrive at a reasonable agreement on the issue. During the talks, both sides explained each other's point of view on the technical and legal aspects of the issue.

Ziaul Haq Comments on Press Role, Afghanistan

BK240314 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 24 Feb 88

[Excerpt] President Mohammmad Ziaul Haq has appealed to journalists to help the elected government in strengthening the democratic process and overcoming the various problems faced by the country. Addressing a dinner held in connection with the 40th anniversary of the founding of the Gujarati daily MILAT in Karachi last night, he said that the press is allowed to criticize the government and its policies, but the criticism should be positive and constructive.

The president asked the journalists to highlight the ideology of Pakistan and to boycott statements by those elements working against the country's interests and integrity. He asked the journalists to exercise self-restraint and to refrain from publishing reports without confirmation. The president appealed to the journalists to keep a balanced point of view when reporting events and to guide the people in the right direction.

About the situation in Karachi, the president said with the strengthening of the political system, lawlessness and regional [word indistinct] will end by themselves and the crime rate will diminish.

Referring to the Afghanistan problem, the president said efforts are being made to establish an Islamic, independent, and nonaligned government there so that the Afghan refugees could return to their homeland in peace and honor after the withdrawal of foreign troops. He paid tribute to the Afghan people for sacrificing nearly 1.2 million lives in their struggle against a superpower in order to establish an Islamic government and defend their principled position. He reiterated that Pakistan would not compromise on any principle, nor be a party to any agreement against the interests of Afghan people. [passage omitted].

Junejo, Japanese Envoy Discuss Afghan Issue

OW240359 Tokyo KYODO in English 0052 GMT 24 Feb 88

[Text] Islamabad, Feb. 24 KYODO—Japanese ambassador to Pakistan Shunji Kobayashi held talks with Prime Minister Mohammad Khan Junejo at the prime minister's residence Tuesday and discussed the Afghanistan problem and the upcoming indirect talks between Pakistan and Kabul in Geneva next month, officials said. The two agreed that Japan and Pakistan will hold further talks on the issue, they said.

During the talks Prime Minister Junejo also thanked Japan for its support of Pakistan's Afghan policy and for extending aid to the Afghan refugees in Pakistan, the officials added.

President Receives PLO Special Envoy 24 Feb

BK241548 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 24 Feb 88

[Text] Rabi' (Awaz), the special emissary of PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat, called on President Mohammad Ziaul Haq in Rawalpindi today and delivered a message to him from Yasir 'Arafat.

In his message, the PLO chairman extends his support for the freedom struggle of the Afghan people and expresses the hope that the efforts being made by Pakistan for a settlement of the Afghanistan problem will soon meet with success. In his message, the PLO chairman also described the situation arising out of the Palestinians' struggle in the Israeli-occupied Arab territories in the Gaza Strip and West Bank.

The president lauded the heroic struggle of the Palestinian people and said the sacrifices being made by the Palestinians will not be in vain.

President Mohammad Ziaul Haq called on the United States to change its policy on the Middle East so as to find a just and lasting solution to the Palestinian problem which is the cause of the Arab-Israel conflict. The president assured the PLO chairman's special emissary of Pakistan's continued support for the cause of the Palestinian people and asked him to convey his message of good wishes to Yasir 'Arafat.

Ziaul Haq Speaks on Strengthening Naval Power

BK240400 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 23 Feb 88

[Text] President Mohammad Ziaul Haq has said that the government will do its best within its resources to enable the Navy to fulfill its obligations in national defense. He was addressing naval officers and sailors on board the "PNS Nasser" after witnessing naval exercises in the Arabian Sea near Karachi today.

The president said the government is trying to equip the defense services with the latest weapons. It is the duty of defense personnel to use this equipment and attain the highest degree of professionalism and competence. He said there is no career greater than one in the defense services and no calling higher than always being ready to die in defense of the motherland. The president said the nation is proud of its Armed Forces and has full confidence in its capabilities to defend the country.

Earlier, the president witnessed the impressive naval exercises on board the "PNS Nasser." The exercises were conducted in the Arabian Sea about 25 miles off the Karachi coast. The Pakistan Navy's destroyers, submarines, submarine chasers, and the naval aviation wing took part in the exercises.

Sri Lanka

Soviet Official Compares LTTE, Contras

BK251356 Hong Kong AFP in English 1343 GMT 25 Feb 88

[Text] Colombo, Feb 25 (AFP)—Sri Lanka's Tamil Tiger guerrillas are like the Nicaraguan Contras and should be wiped out politically, a senior Soviet official said here Thursday.

"Their actions induce me to compare them with the Contras (fighting the leftist Sandinista regime)," Yuriy Vinogradov, deputy head of the Soviet Union's South Asia Department [as received], said.

Guerrillas of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) indiscriminately kill innocent people "and they should be wiped out politically," he told AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE.

Mr. Vinogradov, who on Thursday ended a five-day visit to Colombo, accused the LTTE of attempting to dismember Sri Lanka, which he described as "a non-aligned, independent and peaceful country."

The Soviet Union has supported the 1987 Indo-Soviet [as received] peace accord aimed at ending the island's ethnic conflict.

Mr. Vinogradov, 55, said the Indian military deployment in Sri Lanka could not be compared with the U.S. role in Vietnam.

"Indian soldiers are playing a political role. They have come invited, like the Soviet troops in Afghanistan," he added.

He alleged that foreign forces whom he refused to identify were backing the LTTE, which is now fighting an estimated 50,000 Indian troops in Sri Lanka's north and east.

The Soviet official said Tamil rebel groups which have accepted the peace pact and are joining the political mainstream were doing the "right thing".

Mr. Vingoradov, however, refused to speak about the outlawed Janatha Vimukthi Peramuna (JVP), a Sinhalese extremist group also opposed to the accord, saying he did not want to comment on the "internal affairs of Sri Lanka."

President Announces Amnesty, Council Elections

BK251115 Colombo International Service in English 1045 GMT 25 Feb 88

[Text] The eighth session of Parliament was inaugurated by President Jayewardene this morning. Delivering the traditional speech to Parliament, President Jayewardene acclaimed a general amnesty to those who renounce violence and enter the democratic process.

He said Sinhalese, Tamils, or Muslims, wherever they may be or whoever they are, if they give up violence, surrender arms, and accept the India-Sri Lanka agreement, shall be granted amnesty and that he will remove the proscription that prevented them from participating in democratic elections. The president invited them to join the other parties in the nonviolent and humane democratic process.

The president said the government will hold elections for the provincial councils in April. He said he had already created a ministry for provincial councils and through this ministry will be taken the relevent steps for the appointment of governors, chief ministers, and board of ministers, and for the proper functioning of these councils. [sentence as heard]

The president expressed the hope that the Indian peacekeeping force would be able to ensure the LTTE's agreement. They will be entitled to amnesty and could enter the mainstream of democratic politics and seek elections to the provincial councils.

President Jayewardene also stressed the history of violence unleashed on innocent civilians by the JVP [Janatha Vimukhti Peramuna—People's Liberation Front]. The president said the robbery of 311 shotguns by the JVP during a short period suggests that they had a larger and long-term objective in mind—the eventual capture of state power and destroying the democratic process and not just terrorism.